The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Members, who pay dues of $1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of $5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of $25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of $100.00. Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer. Present officers:

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Waterfowl Refuges in The Carolinas and Virginia

So few of us appreciate the opportunity for bird study offered by these refuges that we are carrying information about the five refuges in the three states. New Englanders become excited over a few Whistling Swans, and a Snow Goose gets wide publicity; yet we count both these birds by tens of thousands. All of these refuges invite members of the N. C. Bird Club to come and study the birds there.

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge

MAYNARD S. JOHNSON

Refuge Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service
New Holland, North Carolina

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, near New Holland in Hyde County, is seventy miles east of Washington, N. C., and is reached by one-half mile of dirt road on the north side of U. S. Highway No. 264.

Mattamuskeet Refuge is an area of 50,476 acres, including nearly all of Mattamuskeet Lake, with adjacent marsh and woodland. The lake is about fifteen miles long and five or six miles wide. Before the establishment of the refuge (in December, 1934), the lake was the scene of an ambitious drainage project, to pump the water from the lake and farm the lake bottom. The lake bed is below sea level, so drainage was possible only by pumping. For a number of years the lake was drained and several thousand acres of the lake bottom were in cultivation. Drainage was abandoned in 1932 and the lake refilled. The area was bought by the United States as a wildlife refuge in 1934. The pumping plant has been remodeled as a headquarters building, and the greater part of the building made into a hotel (Mattamuskeet Lodge), available for the accommodation of visitors. The chimney of the pumping plant has been adapted as an observation tower, 120 feet high, which gives a general view of most of the refuge. The tower is open to visitors on Sunday and Thursday afternoons, between 2:00 o'clock and 4:00 o'clock.

Mattamuskeet Refuge serves principally as a wintering area for whistling swans, Canada geese, and several kinds of shoal-water or marsh ducks, of which pintails, black ducks, mallards, and baldpates are most abundant. Ordinarily, Canada geese outnumber all the ducks combined.

The carrying capacity of a wintering area refuge for waterfowl depends mostly on the available food supply. At Mattamuskeet Refuge the bulk of the food supply for waterfowl is on the zone of marsh which is out of water during the growing season. There is practically no plant growth

(and hence no food for waterfowl) in the open water of the lake. There are few places in the lake more than three feet deep, and most of the lake is considerably shallower. Except for wave action, and the turbidity due to wave action, the entire lake bottom would be capable of supporting a growth of aquatic plants. Perhaps because of the virtual absence of submerged vegetation, nearly all the ducks that frequent the refuge are marsh ducks instead of diving ducks.

Geese and ducks come to Lake Mattamuskeet in October (sometimes a few by the end of September), and remain until March or later. Swans usually arrive by the end of October or the first of November. During the winter period there may be considerable fluctuations in numbers of these waterfowl, especially of geese and ducks. Numbers of waterfowl of all kinds on the Mattamuskeet Refuge were considerably reduced in the fall of 1941 as compared with numbers in several recent seasons. The reduced number of waterfowl on the refuge is correlated with drouth in this area, exceptionally low lake level, and consequent unavailability of most of the normal food on the marsh area adjoining the lake. Throughout the fall, lake level has been nine to ten inches below sea level, and the water line in many places is several hundred yards from the vegetation line, with a zone of bare beach between.

In most years the problem has been too much water in the lake instead of too little. Canals connecting from Mattamuskeet Lake to Pamlico Sound, and provided with water control gates, allow holding water in the lake or running it out, and afford a means of keeping salt water out of the lake at times when the lake is below sea level. The general plan has been to lower the lake level by running off water in the spring, and to hold water in the lake in fall and early winter, to flood the marsh adjoining the lake, and to make the food there available to wintering waterfowl. However, the lake has no natural inlets, and when there is no rain there is no way to raise the lake.

Various other developments have been undertaken which increase the food supply, and so the carrying capacity of the refuge, under normal conditions of rainfall. Development work has been by the CCC camp assigned to the refuge. Such development has included clearing bushes from former marsh areas, burning to control sprout growth of bushes and thick herbaceous growth, marsh plowing to break the turf and catch rainwater in the furrows, building dikes to catch and hold rainwater on the marsh, and planting useful kinds of aquatic and semiaquatic vegetation.

Besides these several measures to increase the usefulness of marsh areas of the refuge, two hundred acres or more of land are cultivated to furnish a supplemental food supply for geese and ducks. Part of this cultivation is soybeans, and part winter rye grown as a green pasture crop for grazing by geese. After the close of the hunting season direct grain feeding is used as required to supplement other food supply.

A new road is being built across the lake by the State Highway Commission. It is expected that some parts of the lake will be enough protected from wave action by the road embankment so that aquatic vegetation can be established there, and that the productive area of the refuge will be increased accordingly.

Banding records have shown that many of the same geese and ducks return to Lake Mattamuskeet in successive winters, and use the same part of the lake shore.

Besides waterfowl, the bald eagle is one of the more conspicuous birds wintering on the Mattamuskeet Refuge. It is not abundant, but sometimes two or more eagles can be seen together. The great blue heron is present and fairly common all seasons. Especially conspicuous water-frequenting summer birds are little blue herons, American egrets, and ospreys.

Deer are plentiful on the wooded parts of the refuge, and are occasionally seen on the marsh. Muskrats, minks, and raccoons are the most plentiful fur animals.

Mattamuskeet Refuge is one of the few national wildlife refuges where waterfowl hunting is permitted on a part of the area. Fishing is permitted also within the refuge. Under co-operative agreement between the Federal and State agencies, permits for hunting and fishing are sold by the N. C. Division of Game and Inland Fisheries. Most of the visitors to the refuge are attracted by the hunting and fishing.

Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge

MAYNARD S. JOHNSON

Refuge Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service
New Holland, North Carolina

Swanquarter Refuge, in Hyde County, is a land and water area of 42,949 acres. The land area, about fifteen thousand acres of salt marsh and woodland, was purchased under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act; and the adjacent open water area (consisting of bays and coves of Pamlico Sound) was closed by Presidential proclamation of July 18, 1935. The water area included within the refuge and closed under the Presidential proclamation establishing the refuge consists of parts of Rose Bay, Swanquarter Bay, and Juniper Bay (as well as Deep Bay and Deep Cove), and adjacent waters of Pamlico Sound.

The Swanquarter Refuge serves for the protection of deer, bears, fur animals, and other mammals, as well as upland birds and waterfowl, but was established primarily for the protection of swans, Canada geese, and ducks, especially diving ducks. The bays and islands of the refuge shelter water areas from the full effect of wind and waves; and shoals with a

covering of widgeon grass and other aquatic plants affords safe feeding grounds for buffleheads, goldeneyes, scaup, canvasback, redhead, and ruddy ducks, as well as geese and swans. Old squaw and scoter ducks are less partial to quiet water, and are more likely to be found away from sheltering land. However, for many of the diving ducks, much of the value of the refuge depends on feeding areas protected from weather as well as from hunting.

Some of the marsh area of the refuge contains numerous small ponds and chains of ponds which are frequented by marsh or dabbling ducks, especially black ducks.

Swanquarter Refuge is a wintering refuge for waterfowl, and it is only in winter that any considerable number of waterfowl are present. Most of the birds come in October and November, and leave in March and April. Canvasbacks and redheads usually arrive later and leave earlier than most of the other ducks. A few black ducks and wood ducks are present throughout the summer.

The refuge has three observation towers, which together give a view of most of the marsh and water area. One of the towers is near the residence and group of service buildings on the west side of the refuge. The other towers are on islands. The waterfowls of the refuge can be observed satisfactorily, however, only by boat travel through the areas where the birds are congregated. It is sometimes possible to arrange for interested groups to be taken on the refuge patrol boat.

Bald eagles are moderately frequent on the refuge in the winter. Two or three or even more may be seen on a tour of the refuge. They are occasional in summer. In summer occasional American egrets are the most conspicuous birds along the shore of the refuge.

The water areas of the refuge (except for creeks and ponds included within the survey lines of land purchases) are public navigable waters, and fishing and oystering in these waters are subject to State (but not Federal) regulation.

The land area of the refuge consists mostly of salt marsh, with blackgrass or needlegrass (*Juncus*) the dominant vegetation. Salt-marsh areas include the several islands of the refuge, and a border of varying width between shore and woods. Something more than 4,000 acres of the refuge are wooded. A sparse growth of pond-pine borders the marsh. The better drained sites within the woods are occupied by loblolly pine, and the wetter sites by gum and cypress.

Bobwhite quail and mourning doves are frequent in the field near the refuge buildings, especially in summer. Strips have been plowed to increase the food supply there and improve habitat for quail.

Deer are plentiful in wooded parts of the refuge, and have increased under protection from hunting. Bears occur but are only occasional, and probably none are permanent residents. Minks, muskrats, and raccoons are the principal fur animals, and there are even occasional otters.

The part of the refuge least used by useful wildlife is the salt marsh. Experiments with winter burning have made these formerly unusable areas available for grazing by geese. Plans have been made and approved also to use dynamite to blast several ponds in the marsh, to afford additional resting and feeding sites for ducks and other aquatic wildlife.

Plans are pending also to blast a series of waterholes, along refuge boundary and fire lanes, for fire protection and wildlife use.

Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge

JOHN GREY, Raleigh

This is one of the best places on the Atlantic Coast to see and study birds. The refuge, which is part of the outer banks of North Carolina, offers: miles of seashore used by few humans, 5,700 acres of land and marsh, 30,000 acres of water in Albemarle Sound, and several islands. One can drive over most of the land area, sit in your car and watch the birds at close range. Add to these natural facilities the finest of hosts, Sam A. Walker, Refuge Manager, of Manteo, who is an excellent ornithologist with a keen willingness to stop and look at any bird, and you are fixed for a real outing.

The refuge begins at Oregon Inlet and includes all of the land stretching southward to North Rodanthe, a distance of fifteen miles. In past years the refuge was cut by New Inlet, but this was closed by drifting sand during the dry winter of 1940-41, so that now the coast of Pea Island extends from Oregon Inlet to Hatteras Inlet. A fuller description of the refuge, together with nesting birds, appeared in the last issue of THE CHAT (Vol. 4, pp. 50-54).

The surest way to reach the refuge is to go with Sam Walker, who is always glad to have visitors. If one wishes to be a pioneer and go alone, it can be done—only if one is a good driver in deep sand. Alternate routes from Nags Head are down the beach to Oregon Inlet, or over the middle of Bodie Island by what is courteously called "the inner road," which is merely two ruts in deep sand and suggest to the imaginative that they were first used by two epileptic blacksnakes in a wandering mood. Either route you choose you will wish you had taken the other.

The ornithologist finds the refuge an exciting place at all seasons with perhaps the peak of migration in mid-May or mid-August as the most delightful. The nesting season is at the height the first half of June, and the wintering population is fairly stable throughout December and January.

In migration the shore birds cover the flats and are counted by the thousands. One can sit on the dike of the fresh-water pond and see within fifty feet of him six or more sandpipers, including Western, Stilt, White-rumped, and Red-backed. Mingled with them will be Knots, Dowitchers,

Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and occasionally Northern Phalarope, Marbled Godwit, and an Avocet. Along the ocean shore will be Curlews, Sanderling, Black-bellied Plover, many gulls, and terns galore. Among the terns can usually be found in migration: Royal, Caspian, Common, Least, Gull-billed, Black, and Forster's, with often the rare Roseate Tern.

The winter population is in many ways the most spectacular with its great concentrations of large birds. On the pond will be many species of dabbling ducks, and out in the sound one can find rafts of diving ducks, a few Brant, and lots of Coots. A few Whistling Swans will be there and ten thousand or more Canada Geese feeding all over the refuge and in the sound. Along the shore will be many of the Great Black-backed Gulls, and offshore one can see Gannets, various kinds of scoters, Red-breasted Mergansers, with a few Horned Grebe.

In winter, Pea Island and Back Bay have the major portion of the world's supply of Greater Snow Geese. Ornithologists in other parts of the country envy us the nearness of these great white birds with the black wing-tips. Few sights in the bird world are more spectacular than a flock of several thousand Snow Geese taking off amid constant honking that resembles the music of a pack of hounds in full voice. Wm. J. Howard has an interesting article on these birds in *The Auk,* 57:523-531, October, 1940.

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge

E. B. Chamberlain

Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.

Exactly two hundred and forty-one years ago, January 1, 1941, John Lawson, Gentleman, was encamped on Bulls Island, South Carolina, traveling from Charles Town to North Carolina. The traveler tells us of the bird life that there occurred "in the season, good Plenty of Fowl, as Curleus, Gulls, Gannetts, and Pellicans, besides Duck and Mallard, Geese, Swans, Teal, Widgeon, Etc."

In 1929 this fascinating area was added to the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. The 60,000-acre tract, located on the coast twenty miles east of Charleston, is composed of barrier islands, plus the vast stretches of salt and brackish marshes extending from these islands to the mainland opposite. Fronting on the Atlantic, the barrier islands range in size from the long, narrow Raccoon Keys, with but scant vegetation of grasses and low shrubs, to Bulls Island. This last, of some 5,000 acres, and the only heavily timbered area on the refuge, abounds with palmettoes, loblolly pines, live oaks, magnolias, myrtles, and many other trees and shrubs. The refuge is immediately adjacent to the delta formed by the mighty Santee River, and, rich in aquatic food plants, this delta has long com-

prised one of the country's outstanding wintering grounds for waterfowl.

In addition to providing cover and security, much work has been done in the way of building up suitable feeding grounds. Several years ago, with WPA and CCC aid, a far-sighted program was inaugurated. Areas on Bulls Island and Cape Island were dammed up to make fresh-water ponds, aggregating some 1,200 acres, and these planted to the duck foods best adapted to this climate. Under the immediate, driving direction of Andrew H. DuPre, one of the best managers on any wildlife refuge in this country, this program of providing first-class feeding grounds is rapidly producing satisfactory results.

The refuge provides sanctuary for many species of waterfowl and shore birds, as well as the nongame, song, and insectivorous species. A number of mammals and reptiles also share in this protection. When the waterfowl are at the peak of concentration during the local gunning season, it has been estimated that some 70,000 ducks frequent the marshes, creeks, and ponds of the region.

Among the most valuable ducks to be found in large numbers on the refuge are Mallard, Black, Pintail, Baldpate, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Ruddy, and Scaup. These, of course, are wintering waterfowl. In summer the group is represented by the Wood Duck and Florida Gallinule, both breeding species. Marsh and wading birds are well represented by abundant Clapper Rails, Great and Little Blue Herons, Louisiana Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Snowy and American Egrets, and others. In the fall large flocks of the Wood Ibis occur on the wide mud flats. During migration times shore birds are present on the refuge in large numbers, the flocks including the small sandpipers, along with such species as Dowitchers, Marbled Godwits, Knots, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, and others.

This refuge provides a haven for one of the biggest concentrations of Oyster Catchers in the country; observers have counted no less than a thousand on a single winter day. Large numbers breed throughout the refuge. Other common breeding shore birds include Willets and Wilson's Plovers. A welcome group of newcomers was some ten or twelve Black-necked Stilts that undoubtedly bred on the area, for the first time, during the summer of 1940. Another shore bird rarity is the Long-billed Curlew, occurring in small numbers in winter.

The breeding colonies of Royal Terns and Black Skimmers, sometimes aggregate ten thousand birds. In common with all tern colonies, these birds occasionally shift their breeding grounds, and are absent from the refuge. The Brown Pelican colony of over three hundred birds, is the northernmost breeding group.

Mention should be made that Bulls Island is being stocked with one of the purest known strains of wild turkey-birds from the Santee Swamp. Forty-five acres in food patches and clearings have been made throughout the island. These permit the growth of preferred turkey foods, such as

natural grasses and legumes. In addition, cultivated plants (chufas, upland rice, vetch, etc.) have been planted.

Another Bulls Island activity has to do with banding. During the winter of 1939-1940, some seven hundred waterfowl were banded. On Cape Island, over the years, many thousands of Royal Terns, Skimmers and Pelicans have been banded. All this banding would make a story in itself. Suffice it to say that returns have come in from all parts of the United States, as well as the West Indies and South America.

For several years Bulls Island and the mainland adjoining have been selected by bird-lovers of the Charleston area as the best area for their Christmas census, or count, as it is more properly called. Here for some years now we have not fallen under 125 species for the day. That's good bird country, as any ornithologist will testify. As further evidence must be mentioned the fact that the National Audubon Society happily has arranged with the Fish and Wildlife Service for regular tours to Bulls Island, and that these have proven popular and very satisfactory.

The refuge headquarters, located in the town of McClellanville, consists of a dwelling house for the refuge manager, an office, a service building for cars, trucks, and tools, and a boathouse. Fast cabin patrol boats, and outboard motors, are provided for the patrol and administration of the area. Four steel towers are strategically located to further patrol and observation. On Bulls Island is located the home formerly owned by Gayer Dominick, who did much to further the inclusion of Bulls Island in the refuge territory.

I would not conclude this article without specific mention of the men who run the affairs of this refuge. Andrew H. DuPre and his associates, William P. Baldwin and Roy Hills, form an efficient, courteous trio. Mr. DuPre says: "Visitors who are interested in wildlife are urged to see the refuge. Accommodations for staying overnight at Bulls Island may be arranged by communicating with the refuge headquarters at McClellanville, South Carolina." Many take advantage of this wise policy of the Fish and Wildlife Service. There is no charge for transportation to the island and expenses of food and lodging are moderate. That Mrs. Roy Hills will provide you with a good bed and first-rate food, I will testify gladly.

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Mrs. A. C. Reed, Norfolk, Va.

The refuge is situated 14 miles down the coast from Virginia Beach. One can only reach it by driving down the beach. The refuge consists of 11,000 acres of marsh land and water, purchased in 1937 by the Federal Government principally from the Princess Anne and Ragged Island Gun Clubs. In 1938, Harry A. Bailey became manager. Starting from

scratch, there were at first two small buildings; one, an office for Mr. Bailey, the other, living quarters for Captain Barco, 72 years old, who was the watchman at night. There was also a boathouse. Today, the headquarters form an imposing establishment. There is the main office, with garages for trucks. The old boathouse, the home of some 35 pairs of nesting barn swallows in summer, still stands, but a fine new boathouse has been built. There are homes for the manager and assistant manager, with a garage for each. Dominating all, stands an observation tower. Green lawns surround the buildings. The roadway, leading from the dunes to headquarters, is made of the white shells of oysters and clams.

One obtains an excellent idea of the refuge area from the top of the tower. On the east is the Atlantic Ocean, the white beach of which curves like a scimitar toward Cape Henry. Only a comparatively narrow strip of land separates the salt waters of the ocean from the fresh waters of the bay. To keep the sea from inundating, as it did in 1933, the natural sand dunes have been increased by the building of sand fences, until a dune-barrier about 20 feet high has been created, and this extends for a good many miles along the coast.

On the west side of the tower one looks down on the waters of Back Bay, dotted with islands and having an irregular outline. The largest islands in the refuge are Ragged Island and Long Island. Ragged Island is marshy and contains a few ponds. Thirty years ago, we are told, over 100 Black-crowned Night Herons nested here. Long Island has a picturesque topography. At the southern end is a piece of woodland with thick undergrowth and vines; then follows marsh and cultivated land; next woodland; then again marsh and tilled land; finally, a holly grove where Bailey has built picnic benches, and this in turn tapers off into cultivated land fringed with trees and marsh. The 70 acres under cultivation have been variedly planted to wheat, corn, rye, barley, oats, and field peas. In spring the south end of the island is a bower of violets, coral honeysuckle, and jasmine, and it is garlanded with one flowering dogwood tree. This is an excellent spot in which to look for migrating land birds. This winter, the Great Horned Owl has been found on Long Island.

Extending south for about 5 miles from headquarters is a stretch of land known as the "Wash Flats." If there is rain preceding the migration of shore birds, the bay side of these flats will be covered with water, and they then become a fine feeding ground for shore birds.

In about the middle of the Wash Flats and bordering the bay is an area charmingly titled the "Green Hills." The Hills, be it said, are slight knolls, mantled with live oaks, small pines, myrtle bushes, and tall, fine grass. This vegetation clothes the area with a vivid, dark green; hence, presumably, the name "Green Hills." Black Ducks and Pintails dine on the acorn crops here. It is in the coves bordering the Green Hills that the waterfowl chiefly raft, and by creeping through the thickets, one may have close views of them. The watery margins of the Green Hills are the

haunt of the Wilson Snipe, and Short-billed Marsh Wrens in winter are not infrequent denizens of the grass.

A description of the layout of the refuge would not be complete without mention of the high-powered motorboat, with a glassed-in cabin, with which the refuge is now equipped. The boat was first called "The Swan," but since it is painted gray, not white, the name has been changed to "The Honker."

Of course the refuge was established for the purpose of protecting the depleted waterfowl, and to afford them a feeding and resting area. Wild celery, sago pondweed, and widgeon grass are the main aquatic food plants. This winter wild celery exceeds the others. Some of the greatest concentrations of waterfowl in the east occur on this refuge. Rafts of birds, numbering many thousands to a species, of Pintails, Baldpates, Coots, and Canada Geese may be seen. This winter there is not the usual number of Pintails, perhaps because of the warm season. During the winter of 1940, many thousands of Ring-necked Ducks were on the refuge. So far this year there have been none. On the other hand, there are more Ruddy Ducks than in preceding years. At the present writing, there are about 1,000 Whistling Swan, 15,000 Snow Geese, 20 Blue Geese, a few thousand Canvasbacks, small numbers of Blacks, Scaup, Green-winged Teal, and Buffleheads here. Gadwalls and Shovellers are the rarest of ducks on the refuge.

Driving down the beach in winter, one may see groups of the three scoters, also Red-breasted Mergansers in large numbers. Old Squaws, Horned Grebe, Red-throated Loons, Bonaparte's Gulls are present, particularly in January and February. Double-crested Cormorants are seen every month of the year. The most unusual sea birds in winter noted by Bailey have been Brunnick's Murre and Dovekie.

In summer no colonies of nesting terns are present on the refuge. One such colony did exist, that of 60 pairs of Least Terns, in June, 1939. During summer, the marshes everywhere are filled with the singing of Long-billed Marsh Wrens. Least Bitterns and King Rails are present; Soras are heard during migration.

Next to the waterfowl, the migration of shore birds here is the most interesting to the bird student. Driving down the beach, droves of the common species, such as the Black-bellied Plovers and Turnstones, may be seen. Sometimes Willets and Knots are in good numbers. Hudsonian Curlews, Piping Plovers, Western Sandpipers will be present during their migration season. On the Flats, one looks for Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpipers, Dowitchers. Marbled Godwits have been twice recorded, Stilt Sandpipers once. Excellent opportunities are had to study the different terns during their migration time.

Bird students visiting the refuge are given every help by Bailey. Members of the Virginia Society of Ornithology are greatly indebted to him for his fine co-operation.

The Annual Christmas Bird Count, 1941

Members of the North Carolina Bird Club conducted twelve censuses this year, which are well spaced over the State from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. Weather throughout the period was warm and only Rocky Mount reports rain.

The most species were turned in by Chapel Hill with 72, Rocky Mount following with 67. Lake Mattamuskeet topped all others for individuals at 9,700 without a close second, although several counts were around two thousand. Some of the counts were low in species and also individuals, which is probably due to the small number of observers or the few hours afield, and not to a scarcity of birds this year. Accuracy, however, is much to be desired over mere numbers.

The most noticeable lack was among the water birds, with even Mattamuskeet having fewer species and also individals than usual. In almost every instance the common birds were found to be present and in their usual numbers. Most groups found a covey of Bobwhites and some Winter Wrens, which may indicate a flight year for the latter.

A few unusual things turned up. As in the past, some things were reported which are most improbable, and unless they were accompanied by a note as to how they were identified and by whom, we have omitted them. Here is where a bit of collecting would serve a good purpose. Four unusual species were reported—Rocky Mount listing Rough-legged and also Pigeon Hawks: the former quite rare in North Carolina at any time, and the latter formerly reported only in migration. Craighill always insisted his boys knew hawks. Washington found a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, for which we have a winter record from Kitty Hawk, and also Spotted Sandpiper, which the A. O. U. checklist says occasionally winters in South Carolina.

Especially interesting records. *Great Smokies:* Duck Hawk, Raven, Wild Turkey, and Ruffed Grouse, but no Siskin or Crossbills. *Arden:* Phoebe and Tree Sparrow. *Winston-Salem:* 550 Canada Geese as against 1,700 last year. *Greensboro:* 17 Red-breasted Nuthatch. *Chapel Hill:* Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Eagle, Woodcock, Horned Lark, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin, Chipping Sparrow. *Raleigh:* Vesper Sparrow. *Rocky Mount:* Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, Horned Lark, Pipit, Vesper Sparrow. *Washington:* Five House Wrens, and Rusty Blackbird. *Mattamuskeet:* Five Blue Geese and Tree Swallows.

T. L. Q.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tenn. (same area as in past 4 years: circle of 7½ miles radius centering on Bull Head of Mt. LeConte, and including a section of the Tennessee-North Carolina divide from Silers Bald

to the Sawteeth; also the towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, Tenn.). Dec. 21; 6:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear in early morning, partly cloudy thereafter; ground bare, frozen at high altitudes, thawing in lowlands; wind mostly light, variable; temp. 33° to 63°. Altitude range, 1,200 to 6,600 feet. Thirty observers in 10 parties. Total hours afield 76 (64 by foot, 12 by car); total party miles 249 (67 by foot, 182 by car). Turkey Vulture, 2; Black Vulture, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Duck Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 7 (1 heard drumming); Bobwhite, 12; Chukar Partridge, 1 (observed on Sugarland Mt. at 15 ft. by Dougherty, who having studied this exotic species on game farms in East Tennessee, is well acquainted with it. Sixty individuals were released in East Tennessee, at points within 60 miles of the park boundary, in the spring of 1941; two or three of the birds appeared here in the mountains early in the summer, but then seemed to have disappeared); Mourning Dove, 2; Barred Owl, 1 (seen by Green while bird was being mobbed by crows); Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 6; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 19; Downy Woodpecker, 18; Phoebe, 2; Blue Jay, 8; Raven, 6; Crow, 500 (est.); Chickadee (both Black-capped and Carolina observed), 300 (est.); Tufted Titmouse, 49; White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 10; Winter Wren, 9; Carolina Wren, 20; Mockingbird, 6; Robin, 66; Hermit Thrush, 19; Bluebird, 17; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 101; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 34; Cedar Waxwing, 15; Starling, 21; English Sparrow, 25; Meadow Lark, 11; Cardinal, 36; Purple Finch, 6; Pine Siskin, 14; Goldfinch, 116; Towhee, 4; Savannah Sparrow, 1 (Walker); Junco (both Slate-colored and Carolina observed), 250 (est.); Field Sparrow, 44; White-throated Sparrow, 69; Fox Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 104. Total, 52 species; approximately 2,000 individuals. A poor seed crop on spruce and fir this year may be a factor in scarcity of Pine Siskins and in absence of Red Crossbills. Three Turkeys observed in the above area Dec. 20, and occasional evidences of their presence seen on day when count was made. Charles O. Baird, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Broome, Mary Ruth Chiles, Edward W. Dougherty, Frelan Goddard, John J. Hay, Mr. and Mrs. Earl O. Henry, Albert E. Hyder, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Ijams, Lawrence Isenberg, Kermit Jennings, Ann King, Mrs. Frank Leonhardt, Dr. Henry Meyer, Mrs. Robert Monroe, Elise Morrell, S. A. Ogden, Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Rohlock, Nat Smith, Dr. Gordon H. Tucker, William M. Walker, Jr., Dorothy E. Williams, William Yambert (members and guests, East Tennessee Ornithological Society), Edwin L. Green, Jr., Joe F. Manley, Arthur Stupka (National Park Service).

Arden, N. C. (Rosseraggen Wood, 5-mile radius). Dec. 21; 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Clear and mild; temp. 46 to 62 degrees F. One observer; total hours afield, 4½; total miles, 3, afoot. Sparrow Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Bobwhite, 8; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 3; Crow, 6; Chickadee (*Penthestes* sp.), 12; Tufted Titmouse, 8; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 6; Robin, 2; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 10; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 2; English Sparrow, 20; Meadow Lark, 2; Purple Finch, 2; Goldfinch, 2; Towhee, 2; Junco, 20; Tree Sparrow, 6; Field Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 6; Fox Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 3. Total, 35 species; 160 individuals. Dodette W. Grinnell.

Charlotte, N. C. (fields and woods 10 miles southeast of Charlotte). Dec. 27; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy; ground wet; no wind. Temperature 35° at start, 45° at return. Four observers in one party. Total hours afield, 9

(8 by foot, 1 by car); total party miles, 24 (8 by foot, 16 by car). Turkey Vulture, 1; Bobwhite, 8; Mourning Dove, 1; Flicker, 11; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Blue Jay, 33; Crow, 9; Carolina Chickadee, 25; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Carolina Wren, 6; Mockingbird, 2; Robin, 5; Hermit Thrush, 3; Bluebird, 26; Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 6; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Meadow Lark, 5; Cardinal, 24; Goldfinch, 30 (est.); Junco, 150 (est.); Field Sparrow, 17; White-throated Sparrow, 40 (est.); Fox Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 75 (est.). Total, 27 species; 571 individuals. Mrs. Geo. C. Potter, Jack Dermid, Bobby Shaw, Eugene Driver, members Mecklenburg Audubon Club, Charlotte, N. C.

Winston-Salem, N. C. (Within an approximate fifteen-mile diameter, including Hanes' Park, Reynolda Park, Children's Home Grounds, along Salem Creek, Buena Vista, Ardmore, Lasater's Lake, Williams' Lakes, and several estates—covering evergreen and deciduous forests, open country, and water.) Dec. 27; 7:20 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cloudy in the morning; clear in the afternoon; temperature 42° at start, 46° at finish. Observers in 6 parties, 1-4 persons per party. Total party miles, 61 (auto, 42; afoot, 19); total party hours, 16. Great Blue Heron, 1; Canada Goose, 550; Mallard, 175; Black Duck, 8; Ring-necked Duck, 43; Turkey Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 9; Coot, 2; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Mourning Dove, 34; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 14; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Blue Jay, 22; Crow, 23; Carolina Chickadee, 53; Tufted Titmouse, 29; White-breasted Nuthatch, 12; Brown Creeper, 2; Carolina Wren, 12; Mockingbird, 25; Robin, 5; Hermit Thrush, 3; Bluebird, 14; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 15; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 8; Shrike, 2; Starling, 43; Myrtle Warbler, 32; English Sparrow, 58; Meadow Lark, 15; Cardinal, 56; Purple Finch, 30; Goldfinch, 30; Towhee, 19; Junco, 127; Field Sparrow, 48; White-throated Sparrow, 62; Song Sparrow, 70. Total, 43 species; approximately 1,666 individuals. Screech Owl seen Dec. 26, late at night. Water birds about Winston-Salem this year were fewer than last year, probably because of the mild winter so far. Last year Mr. Lasater had about 460 Mallards, this year fewer than 200. Last year Mr. Williams had about 1,700 Canada Geese, this year about 700 remained through the winter. The others returned but could not find food, due to late planting, and moved on. Water birds on the City Lake were so reduced in number that we did not include it on the census this year. Andrew Mickle, James L. Stephenson, W. H. Chance, Sr., W. H. Chance, Jr., Henry Magie, William L. Anderson, Sr., William L. Anderson, Jr.

Greensboro, N. C. (west Greensboro and the Richardson estate beside Lake Brandt). Dec. 25; 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky clear; ground wet; very light wind, northwest; temp. 28° to 55°. Two observers by car, 1 hour; one observer afoot, 7½ hours; total party hours, 8½; total party miles, by car 10, afoot 8. Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 3; Black Duck, 3; Baldpate, 3; Bufflehead, 19; Hooded Merganser, 25; American Merganser, 7; Turkey Vulture, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 14; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 15; Phoebe, 2; Blue Jay, 5; Crow, 22; Chickadee, 83; Tufted Titmouse, 13; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 17; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 14; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 9; Mockingbird, 3; Robin, 210; Hermit Thrush, 5; Bluebird, 45; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 47; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 75; Starling, 34; Myrtle Warbler, 8; Pine Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 23; Cardinal, 7; Purple Finch, 3; Gold-

finch, 180; Towhee, 3; Junco, 920; Field Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 425; Fox Sparrow, 12; Song Sparrow, 230. Total, 45 species, 2,518 individuals (est.). Robert Wolff, Wade Fox, Jr.

Durham, N. C. Dec. 28; 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; partly cloudy to clear and cold, no wind. Two observers, in one party; total party hours, 6; total miles by car, 10; total miles afoot, 1. Turkey Vulture, 5; Bobwhite, 9; Flicker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 4; Crow, 5; Carolina Chickadee, 6; Tufted Titmouse, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 3; Carolina Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 1; Hermit Thrush, 2; Bluebird, 7; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; Starling, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 3; English Sparrow, 2; Cardinal, 2; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 12; Junco, 22; White-throated Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 5. Total species, 27; total individuals, 114. Tom Jones, Bertha Hopkins.

Chapel Hill, N. C. (same territory as covered in former years). Dec. 27; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy; ground bare; no wind; temp. 42° at start, 54° at return. Seven observers in 3 parties in morning, 2 in afternoon, 1-3 persons per party. Total party miles, 59 (6 on foot, 4 by boat, 49 by car; total party hours, 31 (9 by car, 6 by boat, 16 on foot). Red-throated Loon, 1 (observed with 10 power glasses at 60 yards by H. T. O., E. P. O., C. M. C., at Eastwood Lake; size, speckled back, bill and other characters noted; seen by 7 people next day); Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 8; Black Duck, 32; Baldpate, 6; Pintail, 6; Bufflehead, 2; Hooded Merganser, 11; American Merganser, 5; Turkey Vulture, 17; Black Vulture, 10; Sharp-shinned (?) Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Eagle, 1 (unmistakably an eagle but unable to tell whether immature Bald or Golden.—E. P. O. and H. T. O.); Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 17; Coot, 5; Killdeer, 18; Woodcock, 1; Wilson Snipe, 1; Mourning Dove, 158; Great Horned Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 11; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 13; Phoebe, 2; Horned Lark, 10; Blue Jay, 20; Crow, 53; Carolina Chickadee, 35; Tufted Titmouse, 32; White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 12; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 7; Winter Wren, 9; Carolina Wren, 26; Mockingbird, 2; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 75; Hermit Thrush, 45; Bluebird, 70; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 13; Cedar Waxwing, 3; Starling, 18; Myrtle Warbler, 26; Pine Warbler, 16; English Sparrow, 17; Meadow Lark, 61; Red-winged Blackbird, 18; Rusty Blackbird, 35; Cardinal, 49; Purple Finch, 28; Pine Siskin, 2; Goldfinch, 138; Towhee, 20; Savannah Sparrow, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 481; Chipping Sparrow, 9; Field Sparrow, 28; White-throated Sparrow, 256; Fox Sparrow, 50; Swamp Sparrow, 111; Song Sparrow, 252. Total, 72 species, 2,027 individuals. Noticeable absence of diving ducks. Coit M. Coker, Mrs. H. D. Crockford, Mrs. Ove Jensen, Eugene P. Odum, H. Thomas Odum, Fremont Shepherd, Mrs. H. W. Walters.

Raleigh, N. C. (triangular area, 5-mile base east and west, 3 miles north, including Cameron Woods, Pullen Park, Boneyard Lake, Lake Raleigh, Lake Johnson, and Boone's Pond). Dec. 27; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Partly cloudy; light west wind; temp. 48°-55° F. Four observers in one party. Total hours afield, 8 (7 by foot, 1 by car); total party miles, 16 (4 by foot, 12 by car). Great Blue Heron, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 30; Lesser Scaup Duck, 6; American Merganser, 6; Turkey Vulture, 5; Black Vulture, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Bobwhite, 12; Killdeer, 14; Rock Dove, 16; Mourning Dove, 2; Barred Owl, 2; Belted King-

fisher, 4; Flicker, 24; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Phoebe, 2; Blue Jay, 4; Crow, 5; Carolina Chickadee, 25; Tufted Titmouse, 9; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 7; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 10; Mockingbird, 5; Robin, 6; Hermit Thrush, 5; Bluebird, 40; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 35; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 9; Cedar Waxwing, 40; Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 60; Myrtle Warbler, 5; Pine Warbler, 12; English Sparrow, 150; Meadow Lark, 40; Red-wing, 24; Cardinal, 45; Purple Finch, 25; Goldfinch, 56; Towhee, 4; Savannah Sparrow, 3; Vesper Sparrow, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 250; Field Sparrow, 60; White-throated Sparrow, 80; Fox Sparrow, 45 (in song); Swamp Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 225. Total, 58 species; 1,455 individuals. Thomas L. Quay, Violet W. Quay, Cary H. Bostian (a.m. only), John Grey, Jr. (p.m. only), all of Raleigh, N. C.

Southern Pines, N. C. (around New England House, Church Garden, Bird Sanctuary; five miles out from cemetery; one mile north of town). Dec. 28; 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Clear, wind light; temperature 65°. One party on foot, one party on foot and in car; total party hours, 13. Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 1; Mourning Dove, 60; Flicker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 20; Tufted Titmouse, 8; Brown Creeper, 1; Mockingbird, 5; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 2; Hermit Thrush, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Starling, 50; English Sparrow, 47; Cardinal, 8; Towhee, 8; Slate-colored Junco, 155; Field Sparrow, 200; White-throated Sparrow, 78; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 30. Total, 23 species; 686 individuals. Miss Louise Haynes, Mrs. Ada Swan, Mrs. Cecil Robinson, Miss Elberta Himes, Miss Mary Keller Wintyen, members of Southern Pines Bird Club.

Rocky Mount, N. C. (triangular territory, including all local types of habitat, running 12 miles east and 14 miles north from city). Dec. 26; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Rain, poor visibility, slight wind; temperature, 45 degrees min., 55 degrees max. Six observers working in 2 parties. Total party hours afield, 20; total party miles, 126 (5½ afoot, 1½ by boat, 119 by car). Pied-billed Grebe, 5; Mallard, 6; Black Duck, 4; Wood Duck, 3; Ring-necked Duck, 12; Scaup Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 37; Black Vulture, 34; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 5; Rough-legged Hawk (?) (black phase), 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Pigeon Hawk (?), 1; Sparrow Hawk, 8; Bobwhite, 10; Killdeer, 45; Mourning Dove, 94; Great Horned Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Flicker, 27; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Horned Lark, 68; Blue Jay, 6; Crow, 130; Carolina Chickadee, 25; Tufted Titmouse, 13; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Winter Wren, 5; Carolina Wren, 19; Mockingbird, 6; Brown Thrasher, 5; Robin, 26; Hermit Thrush, 7; Bluebird, 62; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; American Pipit, 119; Cedar Waxwing, 26; Migrant Shrike, 19; Starling, 67; Myrtle Warbler, 28; Pine Warbler, 2; English Sparrow, 140; Meadow Lark, 140; Red-wing, 53; Purple Grackle, 4; Cowbird, 22; Cardinal, 28; Purple Finch, 8; Goldfinch, 37; Towhee, 22; Savannah Sparrow, 14; Vesper Sparrow, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 182; Chipping Sparrow, 8; Field Sparrow, 17; White-throated Sparrow, 87; Fox Sparrow, 3; Swamp Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 56. Total, 67 species; 1,686 individuals. Davis Bulluck, J. B. Corinth, J. J. Johnson, Neverson Lewis, Frank Williams, Joe Williams.

Washington, N. C. (Pamlico River and Chocowinity Swamp for 2-mile radius, east and north along Runyon's Creek in one-mile radius, and west over route of previous censuses). Dec. 27; 7:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. Heavy fog in a.m. lasting until about 9:30. Lifting under clear sky; wind generally from northeast and light; temp. 44° at start, 56° at return. Five observers in three parties in morning, one in afternoon. Total miles by boat, 2½, total miles on foot, 10; total hours afield, 12. Cormorant, 15; Great Blue Heron, 1; Black Vulture, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Bobwhite, 23; Killdeer, 13; Wilson's Snipe, 5; Spotted Sandpiper, 2; Herring Gull, 41; Ring-billed Gull, 116 (est.); Mourning Dove, 8; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Flicker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Phoebe, 4; Blue Jay, 7; Crow, 9; Carolina Chickadee, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 4; House Wren, 5; Carolina Wren, 14; Mockingbird, 14; Catbird, 12; Brown Thrasher, 3; Robin, 2; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 13; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 1 (watched at close range and easily distinguished from other small birds; was hunting insects in cypress trees and gave call notes.—Biggs); Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Shrike, 3; Starling, 54 (est.); Myrtle Warbler, 39; Palm Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 22; Meadow Lark, 70 (est.); Red-wing, 1; Rusty Blackbird, 12; Cardinal, 7; Goldfinch, 3; Towhee, 3; Junco, 4; Field Sparrow, 19; White-throated Sparrow, 33; Swamp Sparrow, 1+; Song Sparrow, 10. Total, 50 species; 631 individuals. Vesper Sparrows at Core Point the same day. Victor Shelburne, Sally Bogart, Joseph Biggs, Clyde Benner, Jack McKeel (members Washington Field Museum).

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Near Holland, N. C. (headquarters area, and area between Lake Landing and east end of refuge). Dec. 27; 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Overcast but clearing; ground bare; wind north, light; temp. 45° at start, 55° at return. Two observers. Total miles afoot, 4; in car, 15; observation from two towers; total hours, 8½. Great Blue Heron, 3; Whistling Swan, 3,179; Canada Goose, 3,152; Blue Goose, 5; Mallard, 21; Black Duck, 627; Baldpate, 2; Pintail, 2,157; Turkey Vulture, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Bald Eagle, 4; Marsh Hawk, 5; Killdeer, 1; Yellowlegs, 9; Herring Gull, 2; Mourning Dove, 4; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 18; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Phoebe, 4; Tree Swallow, 51; Crow, 30; Carolina Chickadee, 5; Carolina Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 6; Catbird, 10; Robin, 42; Thrush (sp. ?), 2; Bluebird, 1; Starling, 22; Myrtle Warbler, 165; Yellowthroat, 3; English Sparrow, 5; Meadow Lark, 15; Red-wing, 107; Purple Grackle, 12; Cardinal, 5; Goldfinch, 1; Towhee, 1; Field Sparrow, 2; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 4. Total, 45 species; approximately 9,699 individuals. Larger flocks partly estimated. Maynard S. Johnson, W. G. Cahoon.

Announcements

ANNUAL MEETING in Greensboro, probably May 8-9.

MATTAMUSKEET FIELD TRIP, Saturday, January 24th, with headquarters at Mattamuskeet Lodge.

CHOOSING A STATE BIRD: The North Carolina State Bird Club is sponsoring a campaign among the schools and nature organizations of the State for the selection of a bird to be recommended to the Legislature for adoption as official State bird. The aid of every classroom teacher in North Carolina is requested. Suggestions regarding the method of balloting by school children will be published next month. Meanwhile, in order to encourage conservation of our wildlife and to secure a wider knowledge and appreciation of some of our common birds, the N. C. Bird Club proposes the following as some of the "candidates" for school study and discussion: Bluebird, Cardinal, Carolina Wren, Goldfinch, Meadow Lark, Mourning Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Robin.

VOLUME FIVE was limited to only four issues by circumstances which were beyond our control.

The New

Birds of North Carolina

Should be ready for distribution at the Annual Meeting,
Greensboro, May 8-9, 1942.

More color plates are being added, replacing ones that were lost, with
Dr. Pearson contributing three of these, and Harry T. Davis
and various members of the N. C. Bird Club
giving others.

Pre-publication Orders Are Still Being Received.

The Chat

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The Chat

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JOHN GREY, JR., *Editor* THOMAS L. QUAY, *Associate Editor*

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Members, who pay dues of $1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of $5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of $25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of $100.00. Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer. Present officers:

President: Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury, W. C. U. N. C.; First Vice-President: Miss Grace Anderson, Statesville; Second Vice-President: Mrs. D. W. Grinnell, Arden; Third Vice-President: Dr. Ben F. Royal, Morehead City; Secretary: Mrs. N. D. Tyner, Greensboro; Treasurer: Dr. C. H. Bostian, Raleigh; Editor: Rev. John Grey, Jr., State College Station, Raleigh; Members-at-large: Mrs. Edwin Clarkson, Charlotte, and Miss Claudia Hunter, Henderson.

The Problem of Hawks at Bird-Banding Stations

Mark H. Taylor, Kinston

A phase of the Mourning Dove investigation, one of the Pittman-Robertson wildlife-research projects, now being conducted by the North Carolina Division of Game and Inland Fisheries, is concerned with the trapping and banding of doves in this State. Through these banding activities interesting facts concerning the movements of Mourning Doves are being discovered. Banding and "return" data are important not only from a scientific standpoint, but are of service also in the administration of this valuable game species.

MARSH HAWK. Male.
One of the new illustrations.

Many problems have been encountered at the dove-banding stations (located at Raleigh, Kinston, Lexington, and Hendersonville) during the two years that this work has been carried on. One of the worst has been the problem of predation at the traps. Hawks were particularly troublesome, and their destructiveness at times became quite serious, especially during the winter and early spring. Not only was the Cooper's Hawk encountered, but the otherwise beneficial Marsh and Sparrow Hawks were perhaps even more destructive at the banding stations.

To trap wild doves successfully it was necessary to set out bait that would attract these birds in large numbers. As the doves soon found these baited areas to be sources of desirable food, they would visit the traps

daily. A small, rectangular trap constructed of one-inch poultry mesh, and functioning on the "funnel" principle, was the type most extensively used in this work. It was designed by William Demerrett, and used successfully by him in trapping doves at Key West, Florida, for many years. Supported by a frame of No. 9 galvanized wire, this trap was twenty-four inches long, eighteen inches wide, and twelve inches high. A small, wire funnel, four inches high and three inches wide, extended into the trap approximately six inches and served as a deflector. As the bait was scattered around the entrance of the trap, as well as inside, the feeding doves would walk in and bump against the side or back of the trap. Once inside very few birds were able to find their way out.

The traps were visited three or four times daily to remove the captured birds and band them, but this was not often enough to prevent many casualties among the trapped doves.

At one of the trapping areas near Raleigh, on the Camp Polk prison farm, a flock of 250 to 300 doves were residents during the winter of 1940-41. In a large soy bean field, where several traps were situated, a sparrow hawk and a marsh hawk were a nuisance for several weeks. The sparrow hawk was finally captured, when it entered a trap to dine on a captured dove. When the writer approached the trap, the hawk, a beautiful male, was trying desperately to escape. He had entered through the funnel and killed the dove. The victim's neck had been severed cleanly, and the head eaten. Its back had been torn open and the viscera eaten also. Although the Sparrow Hawk is a valuable species, this individual was not thought desirable near this trapping area. After a band was placed on his leg and several pictures taken, he was released several miles away from the vicinity.

In this same field a few days later a female Marsh Hawk was seen near one of the small traps, as the observer appeared on the scene. She flew from the ground near the trap, carrying a dove that she had apparently just killed. Judging from the crumpled appearance of the frail trap, the hawk had made a power dive onto the victim, apparently not seeing the wire. Unable to get through the small entrance, this hawk forced one side of the trap up, reached inside, and dragged the dove out with her talons. The pile of feathers on the ground indicated that this Marsh Hawk made a good job of cleaning her prey.

Two doves were killed the afternoon before in another trap twenty yards from the one just mentioned. This trap was also crumpled in at the top. One of the doves had been picked clean on the ground outside of the trap; the other was inside, and appeared to have died from talon wounds on its throat and breast. It is quite likely that both of these traps were raided by the same Marsh Hawk.

On the Hendersonville area one day, a Cooper's Hawk was seen flying from a corn field near-by. On the spot where it flushed were the remains of a recently killed dove; the head had been eaten off, and there was a gaping hole in its back. The heart, liver and entrails, excepting the

SPARROW HAWK. Male.

COOPER'S HAWK.

gizzard and large intestine, had also been eaten. A few months later, a Cooper's Hawk that was suspected of killing six doves on this trapping area in a single week, was finally shot as it was trying to kill another dove in a trap. Its stomach contained the pin feathers of an unidentified bird.

In one instance where a Cooper's Hawk was captured alive in one of the traps at Raleigh, its victim was a small, unidentified sparrow. This bird was eaten whole; only a few scattered feathers making identification possible. This hawk was taken to the State Museum and banded by Mr. Harry Davis, and afterwards released near the city limits.

One of the colored workmen on the farm where most of the trapping was done near Raleigh was employed to visit the traps and keep captured birds in a holding cage until the bander arrived. On one of his visits, the man found a hawk in a trap, struggling to escape. Afraid to put his hands on this catch, he pressed his foot on the frail trap, pinning the hawk to the ground. Hoping that the bander would soon come, he held this position for a long time; but finally a loud squawk from the bird made him jump, and the hawk escaped from beneath the overturned trap. Although this bird was not positively identified, the description given was similar to that of a Cooper's Hawk. Its victim was a dove, whose head and neck had been eaten.

A "repeat," one of the doves already banded at the station near Raleigh, was found dead in a trap. Only its body was left; the head had been pulled through the wire of the trap and eaten. As the observer approached, a male Sparrow Hawk flushed from the ground near the trap. Talon marks on all sides of the trap, and the warm, fresh blood of the victim indicated the hawk's guilt.

On one visit to the trapping station, the writer found dove feathers and a dove's gizzard inside one of the small traps. Tracks on the outside appeared to be those of a Sparrow Hawk. From the appearance of feathers and flesh in the meshes at the rear of the trap, it appeared that the dove's head was pulled through and eaten in the usual manner. Apparently this hawk gained entrance through the funnel, and ate the dove entirely, save for the gizzard and the plucked feathers. Unusual was the ability of this hawk to leave through the front door.

In an orchard on a farm near Raleigh, a trap of different design from the more successful Demerrett model, was used in an attempt to capture doves. It was a large wooden-framed trap working on the same funnel principle. On an early morning visit to this trap, a Marsh Hawk was seen as it flew from an apple tree directly above the trap. Two doves were inside; one alive but badly frightened and bruised from contact with the wire, the other dead. The head of the latter had been pulled through the wire and eaten off.

Quite frequently the remains of dead birds were found in the traps, with no indication apparently as to the actual predator. Where hawk depredation was known, however, in almost all instances one or more large white

splotches, the droppings of the predator, were left near the scene of the feast.

Hawks were not the only predators. Cats and dogs were actually seen in a few instances in the act of raiding a trap. Tracks, on several occasions, were sufficient evidence to blame these domesticated animals.

At Hendersonville, a three-and-a-half-foot king snake was found in one of the Demerrett traps, trying to swallow a dove it had apparenty killed. The snake was coiled around the dove and had already engulfed its head. This offender was promptly killed.

From the foregoing discussion it is evident that hawks can become a real problem at banding stations, and that steps must be taken to minimize their predation on trapped birds. Control of these predators is an ever-present problem, and attempts so far to restrict their attacks have met with only fair success. The setting of steel traps on poles is a common practice in the south as a means of capturing hawks and owls, but pole trapping has not been used during this work to protect the doves. Although it is an efficient method, its disadvantages outweigh its good qualities. Pole trapping, at best, is cruel, and even though the real offenders may be captured, valuable songbirds and useful hawks and owls are more frequently killed by this method. Until a more humane and discriminate method of pole trapping is devised, the use of a shotgun is recommended. The bander on each visit to his traps should be armed, and on the alert at all times to eliminate the undesirable predators.

Help Select A State Bird

A. D. Shaftesbury, Greensboro

The North Carolina State Bird Club is sponsoring a campaign among the schools and nature organizations of the State for the selection of a bird to be recommended to the General Assembly for adoption as official State bird. The help of every classroom teacher is requested in this campaign, which, it is hoped, will encourage conservation of our wildlife and secure a wider appreciation and enjoyment of some of our common birds. Teachers are asked to study and discuss various proposed birds, and any others which may be thought worthy of consideration. Then list on a postal card the numbers of students favoring each bird. Include your own preference and some information regarding your classes and their bird work, add your name and address and mail the card to Mr. L. H. Jobe, Editor, North Carolina Public School Bulletin, Raleigh, N. C. Please bring this to the attention of as many classroom teachers as possible.

Most of the forty-eight States already have official State birds chosen by their legislatures. Following are brief statements about eight of the birds which have been proposed for North Carolina. The *Red-wing* is a bird of the lowgrounds and marshes throughout the year. The male is a glossy black with a red patch and yellow stripe on each wing. The

Catbird summers all over the State, wintering to some extent in the eastern counties. It is well known to all who have gardens with a little shrubbery. The *Mourning Dove*, a bird of the wood, field, and occasionally the yard, resides throughout the State at all seasons. This bird is of great economic value, since it consumes large amounts of weed seed. The male *Wood Duck* is the most beautiful of all ducks. It once seemed headed for extinction, but strict protection has resulted in increased numbers. It is a resident, and is one of the few ducks which nest in North Carolina. The *Scarlet Tanager*, with its scarlet body and black wings and tail, is one of our most conspicuous birds and one of the easiest to recognize. However, it nests only in the mountains and as far east as Durham, and is a spring and fall transient elsewhere. The *Wild Turkey*, a permanent, though unfortunately no longer common, resident, is noted for its size, dignity, and caution. It is our largest game bird and was old Ben Franklin's candidate for national bird of the United States. The *Red-headed Woodpecker* with its red-white-and-black plumage is familiar to everyone, particularly in the towns. Its food includes insects and acorns.

The following list of most of the birds already adopted by other states may aid Tar Heels in making the choice of a State bird for North Carolina: Flicker—Alabama; Carolina Wren—South Carolina; Robin—Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin; Bluebird—Missouri, New York; Western Meadow Lark (almost indistinguishable from our Meadow Lark)—Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Oregon; Wood Thrush—District of Columbia; Mockingbird—Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas; Brown Thrasher—Georgia; Black-capped Chickadee (very similar to the Carolina Chickadee)—Maine; Tufted Titmouse—West Virginia; Cardinal—Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky; Goldfinch—Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, Washington; Baltimore Oriole—Maryland.

The North Carolina Bird Club has prepared a brief mimeographed list of some of the more readily available books and pamphlets on bird lore, and you may secure a copy of this list by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Mrs. Nina Tyner, Secretary, North Carolina Bird Club, 1802 Rolling Road, Greensboro, N. C.

A Soldier Ornithologist On Maneuvers

Thomas A. Imhoff
218th Gen. Hospital APO 908
New York City

On November 5th I was transferred to the 28th Surgical Hospital near Rockingham where we helped run a large field hospital for the men on maneuvers. Being a bird student, and never having been in North Carolina, I looked forward to seeing new and interesting birds, and, of course, the changes in the status of other birds with which I was already familiar

at my home town in Brooklyn, N. Y., where I have been studying birds for the past eight years.

As for my birding time, that was whenever I could get the chance to spend an hour or two near camp, or to spend a day on a more extended trip, or, just to glance up during my work when a bird flew over.

During that month on maneuvers I saw eighty-two species of birds, seven of which were entirely new to me: Water Turkey, Black Vulture, Royal Tern, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Loggerhead Shrike, Boat-tailed Grackle.

The first week I was in Carolina, three truckfuls of us went up to Raleigh for the week-end, where I spent Sunday morning looking for birds, and in the afternoon visited the State Museum's bird exhibit where I obtained a fairly good idea of what birds I should expect to see in North Carolina. From that week-end on, I was stuck on Kitchen Police and guard duty, which killed my week-ends. However, I made the most of it. I had my binoculars and my Petersen's Field Guide with me. On K. P. I got two hours off every afternoon, and so made regular visits to a near-by lake, which produced some interesting waterfowl. Although Prairie Horned Larks are considered rare or uncommon, yet I saw and heard them frequently near Rockingham.

After eight days of work in a field kitchen, I was changed to fire guard and had 28 hours off between the two duties. Taking advantage of those few hours, I hitch-hiked 132 miles to Wilmington, and out to Wrightsville Beach, where I went birding by the ocean for the first time in months. A large percentage of my birding up in New York had been in coastal marshes and bays, so I was glad to see shore birds and gulls and terns once again. I saw Common Loon, Water Turkey, Surf Scoter, Bald Eagle, Piping Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Red-backed Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Sanderling, Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Laughing Gull, Royal Tern, Caspian Tern, and Boat-tailed Grackle.

The week-end of November 29th came up, and it was to be my third straight week-end on duty and probably my last week-end in Carolina. I had written to Mr. William Neely, a bird-bander in Chester, S. C., and he had invited me to come down to see him if I got the chance. At the last minute Saturday morning I got a buddy of mine to take the Saturday and Sunday guard duty, then headed for Chester, 102 miles away, and enjoyed southern hospitality for the week-end.

There I had the opportunity of asking the numerous questions about Carolina birds that were in my head. I knew lots of birds that wintered down south, but I did not know just how far south they went. I saw birds in the field, but did not know whether they were passing through or staying for the winter, or lingering summer residents, or whether they were common or rare for that particular time of the year. Mr. Neely settled many of these questions for me. There I added Barred Owl to my list.

That week-end in Chester was truly my last in Carolina, for the following Saturday morning, December 6th, at 4:30 a.m., our outfit left by truck convoy for Fort Meade.

Waterfowl At Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge

Through Dr. Maynard S. Johnson, Refuge Manager, we have been furnished the data on the waterfowl inventory taken each year in January. The data is for 1941 and 1942, and is compared with inventories for 1935-38 which have already appeared in THE CHAT (I:45-58, II:(2) 10).

Species	*Largest Count*	*1941*	*1942*
Whistling Swan	15,000—'37	2,709	3,206
Canada Goose	55,000—'38	29,300	15,490
Mallard	1,550—'37	824	586
Black Duck	2,350—'37	5,377	3,037
Baldpate	2,200—'37	128	378
Pintail	42,000—'37	13,468	10,632
Green-winged Teal	1,040—'35	277	176
Shoveller	600—'37	4	2
Wood Duck	50—'38	112	92

Due allowance must be made for the fact that different people have made the counts of 1935-36, 1937-38, and 1941-42, as people are apt to estimate differently the size of flocks of birds. Also, in 1937 Pea Island had just been set apart as a refuge, and Back Bay, Virginia, had not been fully established, and since that time many waterfowl have wintered on these refuges. A third influence is probably the fact that in 1933 the sea broke across the dunes into Currituck Sound and the salt water destroyed a great deal of plant food which is just now getting re-established, so that Mattamuskeet in past years has been carrying part of the waterfowl population which normally would be carried by Currituck and adjacent waters. The estimates on Whistling Swan is certainly affected by the fact that swan left Currituck in the lean years and are now returning in some number as the food supply will maintain them.

Johnson writes of the current figures: "The estimates are by no means exact, and no one should be misled by the fact that the figures are not in round numbers. The procedure of the inventory is comparable from year to year, and the figures show a general and considerable decrease in numbers of nearly all kinds of waterfowl wintering on the refuge in the winter of 1941-42 as compared with the previous winter. There may have been general as well as local factors operating to make this difference, but drouth and low lake level and dry marsh and unavailability of natural food probably account for much of the decline in number of waterfowl wintering on the refuge. Swans were an exception to the general rule, in that they showed a moderate increase over the previous January; but until the drouth was broken by heavy rain late in December there were only a few hundred swans on the entire refuge."

Craighill's Last Letter About North Carolina Birds

[Written to C. S. Brimley, October 6, 1941, just a week before Craighill's death on the 14th. It gives a good picture of a busy man enjoying his hobby and through it contributing much to our common knowledge. His field notes are being compiled into a pamphlet on the birds of Rocky Mount.—Editor.]

October 6th, 1941.

Dr. C. S. Brimley,
Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Dr. Brimley: We have had a very dry summer with a consequent unexampled scarcity of Herons and Shore Birds. Some birds, such as Black and White and Yellow-throated Warblers, appear here usually as migrants, though in some years they have been breeding summer residents. Our two breeding Herons, Green and Yellow-crowned, were about as usual; others very scarce. Wood Ducks are quite plentiful. One morning I saw four broods on one pond, most of them three-fourths grown, totaling about forty. Blue Grosbeaks have been very plentiful, more abundant than Indigoes, which were about normal. Some of my "lasts" seem impossibly early, and of course do not represent anything except the last I happened to see. I have been out quite a lot in the early mornings, sunrise to breakfast three or four times a week, but birds in general have seemed to me scarce and hard to find.

This is my list: Aug. 2, first Barn Swallow, last Grasshopper Sparrow; Aug. 3, first Solitary Sandpiper; Aug. 6, last Egret (American); Aug. 7, first Cowbirds; Aug. 10, a baby Goldfinch, last Rough-winged Swallows, Prairie Warbler, and Wood Thrush; Aug. 13, first Blue-winged Warbler and Redstart (sometimes breeds here); Aug. 14, first Black and White Warbler; Aug. 18, first Yellow-throated Warbler; Aug. 19, last Purple Martins. (This is for Rocky Mount. On September 12 I saw 100 dead Martins on the Sound Bridge near Plymouth. In July I saw 500 dead ones there. Last year it was the same sad story.) Aug. 22, Broad-winged Hawk, last Indigo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Prothonotary Warbler; Aug. 25, last Hummingbird; Aug. 29, last Yellow-crowned Night Heron, first Worm-eating Warbler; Sept. 1, last Little Blue Heron, first Osprey; Sept. 4, last Summer Tanager; Sept. 7, first (and last) Bobolinks; Sept. 8, last Nighthawk and Barn Swallow, first Sora (dead one picked up); Sept. 10, first Lesser Yellowlegs; Sept. 12, baby Towhees and Chipping Sparrows, apparently just out of nest; Sept. 15, last Kingbird and Crested Flycatcher; Sept. 16, first Savannah Sparrows; Sept. 17, first House Wren; Sept. 22, last Blue Grosbeak, first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Sept. 23, Kirtland's Warbler; Sept. 24, Scarlet Tanager; Sept. 30, first Wilson's Snipe and Pectoral Sandpiper.

I realize, of course, that the record of the Kirtland's Warbler will be received with some grains of salt. It is the third time I have entered it on my records, the other two being Sept. 2, 1936, and Sept. 22, 1938. When

I see a warbler with an eye-ring, dark head and back, citron-yellow breast with light streaking at sides, etc., etc., answering the picture and description of a Kirtland's Warbler exactly and not matching anything else in the book, I just put it down as a Kirtland's Warbler. They have been reported from both Virginia and South Carolina, and have to get across North Carolina somewhere. Perhaps this is their route.

I use good ten-power glasses and try to be careful. This morning, for instance, I was out with Braxton Townsend, and we saw a group of eight or ten unfamiliar warblers. We spent fifteen minutes watching them, discussing and taking exact note of their markings. We had both Reed's and Peterson's handbooks in the car, and used both, but with inconclusive results. When I got home I consulted "Birds of North Carolina," Forbush, Pearson, and Chapman, and reached a positive belief that they were immature Cape May Warblers in fall plumage, and so entered them. They could not be anything else. If I ever have a chance I will try to collect a Kirtland's Warbler; but they do not seem inclined to wait until I can hunt up a boy with a gun.

With apologies for the length of this letter,

Sincerely,

Francis H. Craighill.

Tryon Becomes A Bird Sanctuary

On February 16, 1942, the Tryon Town Council by official decree established the community as a sanctuary for birds. Within the town limits it is illegal to kill any wild birds except hawks, and violations are punishable by fines of not less than ten dollars. Appropriate signs are to be erected on all roads entering town so that visitors and home folks may be constantly reminded of the protection given birds here.

Not content with having the town set apart as a refuge for birds, efforts are being made to establish a local bird club so that people may be educated as to the value of birds and may learn better methods of protecting them and attracting them to their yards and to the community. Already the feeding of birds through the winter has become a major activity.

Much of the credit for this good work is due to the Tryon Garden Club, to Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Curtis, to G. H. Holmes, who keeps us posted on events, and to many others.

Aids To Amateurs

C. S. Brimley

SWALLOWS

Six species of swallows occur in North Carolina, all either summer visitors or transients except that the Tree Swallow winters to some extent along the coast. Now the first thing to notice about a swallow is its size; if about the size of a thrush, it is a Purple Martin, our largest species of

PURPLE MARTIN.

swallow; if decidedly smaller, it is some other species. Next comes the color of the back; if brown, it is a Bank Swallow or a Rough-wing; if some shade of blue, something else. Next the color of the underparts, if pure white it is a Tree Swallow. For other points see under the details of each species below.

1. Blue-backed Swallows

Purple Martin. Size of a thrush, male blue-black above and below; female duller, grayish below. No other swallow anything like as large. Arrives in the State normally about the middle of March.

Barn Swallow. Steel blue above, buffy beneath, forehead and throat chestnut; outer tail feathers very long and with white spots, it being the only truly "swallow-tailed" species. Transient in most of the State but breeds along the coast, and in parts of the northwest. The only species called "swallow" in England, where, however, our Bank Swallow also occurs, but is called the "Sand Martin."

Cliff Swallow. Much like the preceding but with much less deeply forked tail, and with a chestnut rump, it being the only species in which the upperparts are not uniformly colored back of the forehead. Transient mostly and not common but often present in the mountains in enormous numbers in late summer and early fall.

Tree Swallow. Blue-green above, pure white beneath, being the only one with pure white underparts. Transient, but winters along the coast.

2. Brown-backed Swallows

Bank Swallow. Smallest of our swallows, brown above, white beneath with a definite brown band across the breast. Rare transient.

Rough-winged Swallow. Brown above, underparts largely brownish-gray with no definite band across the breast. Common summer visitor throughout the State, being often called "Bank Swallow" and confused with the preceding. Arrives in late March or early April.

To repeat, the Purple Martin is known by its larger size, and in the male by its uniformly dark underparts; the Barn Swallow by its deeply forked tail; the Cliff Swallow by its blue back and brown rump, and both this and the preceding by dark throats; the Tree Swallow by greenish-blue back and pure white underparts; the Bank Swallow, by brown back and nearly white underparts with dark band across the breast, the Rough-wing by brown back and dingier underparts without chest band.

Concerning Subspecies

C. S. Brimley, Raleigh

In the forthcoming edition of the *Birds of North Carolina* many species are divided into two or more subspecies. Thus, instead of simply Maryland Yellowthroat, there is (1) Maryland Yellowthroat, (2) Northern Yellowthroat, and (3) Athens Yellowthroat. All belong to the "Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*, but are: (1) *Geothlypis trichas trichas*, (2) *G. t. brachidactyla*, and (3) *G. t. typhicola*.

Why should there be such a thing as subspecies? The reason is this. No two specimens of a species are ever exactly alike in every particular, and where a species breeds over a wide area these individual peculiarities are accentuated by differences in environment, climate, length of migration journeys, and by numberless other factors. It thus follows that there will be more or less differences between individuals living in different localities. When these differences are sufficiently well marked a new subspecies is described; that is, its differences are described in detail and its probable breeding range is set forth. Also it is given a subspecific name. Beginners often overlook the fact that no two subspecies breed in the same locality, that the breeding range of each is a separate area. Thus, the Northern Yellowthroat (*brachidactyla*) breeds within the State in the higher area in the west; the Maryland Yellowthroat (*trichas*) may occur in the State only as a migrant; and the Athens Yellowthroat (*typhicola*) is the breeding bird of the coastal plain and Piedmont.

There is in all probability not a single member of the North Carolina Bird Club who can tell two subspecies of the same species apart in the field, and very few who could tell them apart in the hand. It must always be remembered that any two subspecies whose breeding ranges touch will grade into one another. Hence, on the boundary lines there are sure to be a number of intergrades that cannot be referred to either subspecies.

The history of subspecies has been a curious one. Up until the middle nineteenth century such groups were usually considered full species, and named as such. Later on many of them were dropped as mere synonyms, but later revived as subspecies when the idea of there being such things was well established. An instance of this is the Northern Yellowthroat (*brachidactyla*), named by Swainson in 1838, but not admitted to the A. O. U. Checklist until the fourth edition in 1931, nearly one hundred years later. In the intervening years it passed as a mere synonym of the Maryland Yellowthroat (*trichas*).

Among the species represented in the State by one or more subspecies are: the American Crow, represented by the Eastern and the Southern Crow, differing only in comparative measurements; Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers are each represented by a northern and southern subspecies which differ only slightly in size; the Black-throated Green Warbler and Wayne's Warbler differ only in that the latter's bill is slightly shorter and that they inhabit different territories.

Some service can be rendered by those who will collect breeding birds in the various parts of the State to help establish more perfectly the range of these perplexing subspecies.

Important Study of North Carolina Birds

Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Director of the U. S. National Museum, has recently brought out an important publication: "Notes on the Birds of North Carolina" (*Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum*, Vol. 90, No. 3117, pp. 483-530). This 48-page pamphlet gives the results of a collecting expedition of the Museum throughout the State in 1939.

For several years the Museum has been sending out a collecting party to do intensive work in the States bordering on the Appalachian mountain system. From April 11 to June 20, 1939, the party, under the direction of W. M. Perrygo, collected birds and animals at: Elizabeth City, Clinton, Southport, Rockingham, Murphy, Franklin, and Boone. From September 16 to November 27, 1939, the party collected at Madison, Newton, Bethel near Greenville, Engelhard, and Beaufort. Wetmore identifies the specimens and presents the data, and also did some of the collecting.

On the basis of birds collected, and others already in the National Museum, Wetmore is able to establish more definitely the range of various subspecies throughout the State. Thus, we have the first definite record of Wayne's Clapper Rail (Southport), as heretofore all had been listed as the northern form. Ranges are more definitely defined for: Screech and Barred Owls; Flicker; Pileated, Hairy, Downy, and Red-cockaded Woodpecker; Blue Jay; Crow; Carolina Chickadee; White-breasted Nuthatch; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Robin; Cairn's and also Wayne's Warblers; Maryland Yellowthroat; Meadow Lark; Towhee; Savannah, Sharp-tailed, and Song Sparrows.

Some collecting which needs to be done is in the Grackles, which have recently been redescribed by Chapman, and of which North Carolina may have four forms. Also needed are Ruffed Grouse, which are scanty in collections from the State. Wetmore would like to have breeding specimens of the Crested Flycatcher from Smith's Island, near Southport. Those who study the above paper will discover areas throughout the State in which it will be worth while to collect other specimens. Copies of the paper may be secured through: Dr. Alexander Wetmore, U. S. National Museum, Washington.

Prairie Horned Larks Again Nesting At Statesville

Grace Anderson

I met Mr. Johnson of Union Grove December 2, 1941, and got a report on his Prairie Horned Larks.

This year a field was plowed in February and when the crop was harvested in June an old nest was found. Mr. Johnson said: "It was an April nest. Then in July a nest with eggs was found, this in the same field, about a hundred feet from the nest you saw." This in the same field where I saw a nest in the spring of 1940. Mr. Johnson has never heard any singing, only faint plaintive crying. There are six pairs of Prairie Horned Larks on the farm at the present time.

Winston-Salem Bird Club

The club has conducted an intensive campaign to get people to place feeding stations for the birds, with descriptions of various feeders and the types of feed to be used.

A sanctuary has been established at Reynolda covering a thousand-acre tract with special plantings of grain for the birds. Also the city watershed with large areas of woods and lakes is considered a sanctuary and enjoys official protection.

School children are being urged to make use of the books and materials on birds in the City Library, and there is to be a display of bird homes and the like. Some regular publicity about birds is being planned for the newspapers.

President of the Club is W. H. Chance, and Henry M. Magie is Secretary. The club has 32 members.

New Members

Arnold, A. S., 1303 Summit Avenue, Greensboro.

Bernhardt, Mrs. George, Hibriten Street, Lenoir.

Blackburn, Mrs. W. V., R. 2, Battleground Road, Greensboro.

Blake, Miss Trina, Rathfarnham, Arden.

Boyd, Mrs. George, Henderson.

Brand, Mrs. M. G., Tryon.

Brummitt, Miss Mary Elizabeth, Woman's College, U. N. C., Greensboro.

Carlisle, Miss Louisa, Spartanburg, S. C.

Connell, J. P., Henderson.

Crick, Miss Ruth, Spartanburg, S. C.

Crowder, Miss Nannie, Henderson.

Douglas, Mrs. R. D., Box 406, Greensboro.

Early, James, Club Park Road, Winston-Salem.

Ferguson, Mrs. R. S., Liledown, Taylorsville.

Greer, Mr. and Mrs. R. T., Lenoir.

Hale, Mrs. J. T., Jr., "Top O' Piney," Tryon.

Harper, Mrs. G. F., Lenoir.

Harper, Miss Margaret, Lenoir.

Knight, Mrs. Mary, Waelhyll, Tryon.

Knight, William E., Tryon.

Link, Mrs. K. A., South Mulberry St., Lenoir.

Locke, Miss Anne, Y. W. C. A., 418 E. Trade Street, Charlotte.

May, Mrs. Fred, Beall Street, Lenoir.

Reaves, Mrs. Emily, Henderson.

Shea, Frank, 604 Summit Avenue, Greensboro.

Shepherd, Miss Evelyn, 407 N. Mendenhall Street, Greensboro.

Speed, Dr. Joseph A., Trust Building, Durham.

Steele, Mrs. Ed L., South Mulberry Street, Lenoir.

Turck, Mrs. B. B., "Highlow," Tryon.

White, Stanley, Box 648, Roanoke Rapids.

Announcements

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

Greensboro, May 8-9, 1942

The Executive Committee of the North Carolina Bird Club has accepted the invitation of the Piedmont Bird Club to hold the sixth Annual Meeting in the Alumnæ Building of the Woman's College, U. N. C. First session will be 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 8, with the Annual Banquet at 6:15 p.m. in the Home Economics Cafeteria of the Woman's College at $1.00 per plate.

Evening session, 8:30 p.m., in the Alumnæ Building with Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson of New York as speaker. Pearson, as a former teacher in the College, is invited not only as an outstanding ornithologist but as part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the College.

Saturday morning the Piedmont Club will conduct a field trip throughout the county. This will be at the height of the spring migration and will be an excellent time to see something like 100 different species.

Those who will be willing to read papers are asked to send in the title to Mrs. N. D. Tyner, 1802 Rolling Road, Greensboro.

Birds of North Carolina

Now In Press

Sample sheets, with cuts in color and in
black-and-white may be obtained from
State Museum, Raleigh.

There is still time to send in your prepublication order.
State Museum, Raleigh.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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At State College Station
Raleigh, N. C.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

JOHN GREY, JR., *Editor* THOMAS L. QUAY, *Associate Editor*

State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.

"North Carolina was the first of the Southern States to take an active stand in the matter of preserving its wild bird and animal resources."

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New Members ..... Inside Back Cover

THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Members, who pay dues of $1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of $5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of $25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of $100.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer: Ralph Brimley, 1403 Madison Avenue, Greensboro.

The President's Message

I accept a portion of this beautiful office with gratitude. The larger part I wish to divide among the members of the North Carolina Bird Club. I earnestly request that you sketch the architecture of your plan and together we will build the foundation "beyond all date" and lift a thousand towers of gladness to the stars. Ours is that "prophetic soul of the wide world dreaming on (happy) things to come." We have just parted after a perfect meeting—yet we are not entirely separated. As your Robins faithfully ring their old beloved carillon through the strange sweet dawn, my Robins will be ringing theirs. As the slow-drifted beauty of your Wood Thrush's immortal voice throbs across the fallen day, my Wood Thrush will be singing too. So are we bound by golden chains of song. When you walk through green pastures and beside the still waters, may your soul be restored. And may goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life.

GRACE ANDERSON, Statesville.

The Sixth Annual Meeting

MRS. NINA TYNER, Secretary, Greensboro

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club, held Friday and Saturday, May 8th and 9th, at Greensboro, with the Piedmont Bird Club as hosts, was in all respects a very excellent meeting. A good crowd in attendance—over a hundred at the evening dinner, excellent papers at the Friday afternoon meeting, fine exhibits, and evening lecture in Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson's excellent style, a splendid field trip Saturday morning at Dr. Wesley Taylor's "Justamere Farm," topped off with an outdoor breakfast at Mrs. R. D. Douglas' home north of Greensboro—all combined to make the meeting one which will be long and pleasantly remembered by all who attended.

The Friday afternoon session, which was held at Alumnæ House of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, began at 2:00 p.m. with brief reports from local clubs. Reports were presented from the Durham Bird Club, the Farmville Boys Audubon Club, Henderson Bird Club, Hickory Bird Club, Mecklenburg Audubon Club, Greensboro Piedmont Bird Club, Raleigh Bird Club, Southern Pines Bird Club, Statesville Audubon Club, and Winston-Salem Bird Club.

Leading the program of papers presented at Alumnæ House was Dr. Wesley Taylor's experiences with Purple Martins. He had waited ten years for these birds to reside with him, and finally, after many attempts, he arranged twenty or more gourds on poles in a not-too-secluded place with gratifying results. Since then they have come in ever increasing numbers,

the first arrivals each year sometimes coming as early as the latter part of February. Mr. Henry Magie, of Winston-Salem, described some good and bad points regarding "Our Birds versus Our Cats," suggesting elimination or exclusion of the latter where our songsters are living.

Dr. C. S. Brimley, of Raleigh, gave notes on "The Wood Warblers of North Carolina" (printed in this issue), and had on display a splendid collection of over thirty species.

Professor Earl H. Hall, of Greensboro, discussed the "riddle of the Purple Martins" killed by hundreds at certain seasons at Edenton bridge.

In a discussion of North Carolina wildlife sanctuaries, Miss Claudia Hunter, of Henderson, mentioned three federal refuges, besides eight municipal sanctuaries.

Mr. H. H. Brimley, of Raleigh, gave some very interesting reminiscences regarding his early experiences (printed in this issue).

Mrs. O. F. Jensen, of Chapel Hill, conducted a symposium discussion on bird banding and gave some of her experiences, notably with Purple Finches, over a hundred of which are now wearing her bands. In discussing various kinds of food which were attractive to birds, she revealed her special, raw pie dough with stale peanut butter.

Mrs. H. D. Crockford, of Chapel Hill, demonstrated and discussed her experiences with several different kinds of traps.

Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson gave another chapter in the life of "Tommy Bluebird Clarkson," who is now six years old.

Members were given an opportunity to examine the display of materials of interest to bird students. An appliqued quilt with motives adapted from Audubon prints by Mrs. W. R. Walker, of Greensboro; pictures in water color by Douglas Haislip, 14-year-old Greensboro boy; a collection of wildlife photographs done by Johnny McAllister, Jr., Greensboro; projects in bird study by Peck School, Greensboro; a bird quiz board arranged by Miss Evelyn Shepard; a collection of 32 wood warblers belonging to Dr. C. S. Brimley, Raleigh; bird nests gathered by the Greensboro Piedmont Bird Club; and bird houses made by Henry W. Johnson, Greensboro.

Evening Session

The banquet was held in the home economics cafeteria at Woman's College, with a hundred and fourteen present. The tables were done in a naturalistic arrangment of meadow lilies, green-brier, Indian paint brush, and tulip tree blooms. The president, Dr. Archie D. Shaftesbury, of Greensboro, presided. A cordial welcome was given by Miss Sarah Lesley, of Greensboro, with Mr. Henry Magie, of Winston-Salem, responding. The nominating committee, Miss Claudia Hunter, Henderson, chairman, and Dr. C. S. Brimley, Raleigh, gave its report which was adopted unanimously, with the election of the following new officers for the coming year:

President, Miss Grace Anderson, Statesville.

Vice-president representing eastern Carolina, Miss Clara Hearne, Roanoke Rapids.

Vice-president representing the central section, Mrs. O. F. Jensen, Chapel Hill.

Vice-president representing the western division, Mr. Henry Magie, Winston-Salem.

Secretary, Mrs. Roxie C. Simpson, Raleigh.

Treasurer, Mr. Ralph F. W. Brimley, Greensboro.

Members of the executive committee at large, Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, Charlotte, and Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury, Greensboro.

Mr. Harry T. Davis, Raleigh, Treasurer of the N. C. Bird Book fund, gave a report on some of the difficulties encountered in the publication of the revised edition of Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley's *Birds of North Carolina,* but stated that the present expectation was that the book would be ready in June, and that well over a thousand prepublication orders had been received.

Miss Grace Anderson read brief memorials to the members who had died during the year.

The resolutions committee, consisting of Mr. E. H. Driver, Charlotte, chairman; Mr. Maurice Stimson, Statesville; Mrs. Geo. C. Potter, Charlotte; Mrs. Cecil M. Appleberry, Wilmington; and Mr. Harry T. Davis, Raleigh, stressed especially the desirability of our writing to our members who are at present scattered in various places in the armed forces of the United States. Mrs. O. F. Jensen brought a message from Col. Joseph Hyde Pratt, of Chapel Hill, who was unable to be present due to serious illness, and by unanimous consent a special message was sent to Col. Pratt.

In his Presidential Address, Dr. Archie D. Shaftesbury, told of the work, plans, and growth of the club for the past year. The membership, in spite of difficulties, has shown a definite increase, and is now well above five hundred, the largest yet reported. The membership is distributed in 58 counties of North Carolina, and in 12 other states, besides the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Announcement was made of the donation of another set of lantern slides, this one of water birds, which is now available for loan to various groups through Dr. Bert Cunningham, Secretary, North Carolina Academy of Science, Duke University, Durham, N. C. A list, "Useful Publications on Birds," has been prepared with the collaboration of Miss Anne Shamburger, Greensboro, and Mrs. H. Leslie Perry, Henderson, and distributed to all members, and other material has been mimeographed and distributed, especially with the help of Mr. Henry Magie. If travel continues to be more difficult, it is suggested that the district plan, already in use with our membership work, be considered to see if a half dozen district meetings, with some of the state officers in attendance, might not be advisable for the autumn.

Concluding the banquet Friday evening was a clever "Information, Please" program on bird knowledge, with Henry Magie as Clifton Fadiman, in charge, and Miss Etta Schiffman, Greensboro, judge. The prize, a box of salt, was won by Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green, of Raleigh, contender against Harry T. Davis and T. Gilbert Pearson.

The keynote of the meeting was the lecture presented Friday evening by Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, in Aycock Auditorium at Woman's College. Dr. Pearson, chairman of the Pan-American Section, of the International Committee for Bird Preservation, and President Emeritus of the National Audubon Society, now a resident of New York City, was formerly a member of the faculty of Guilford College, and of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina. His lecture, "Birding Below the Line," described briefly some of his experiences during a recent ten months tour through nine countries of South America in the interest of international treaties for wildlife protection. Limits of space prevents even a suggestion of this splendid lecture, which gave not only a better knowledge of the birds and other wildlife of Central and South America, but suggested a better understanding of the peoples of the Central and South Americas.

Saturday Field Trip

Six o'clock Saturday morning found over fifty bird enthusiasts ready for the field trip at "Justamere Farm," the country home of Dr. and Mrs. Wesley Taylor. Members were served hot coffee, doughnuts, and thick, rich cream from the registered dairy herd. Many birds, as well as bird houses, feeding stations, and feeding grounds were observed in and around this farm. Later, members drove to the country home of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Douglas to find breakfast being cooked outdoors and tables set awaiting hungry appetites. This rustic farm home overlooks a small lake, and the visitor has a choice of two approaches, either a winding wooded path well planted with wild flowers and ferns gathered from all sections of the State, or else by a long suspension bridge over a deep ravine.

The Club certainly owes its thanks to the retiring Executive Committee for the splendidly planned meeting and also many thanks are due the local president, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, of the Greensboro Piedmont Bird Club, and to her able and enthusiastic aides who so graciously assisted with the local arrangements and the entertainment of the visiting guests.

Seventy-five birds were recorded on the field trip, including most of the common species, and also the following: King Rail, Woodcock, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue-headed Vireo, and Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Kentucky, and Canada Warblers. Also Baltimore Oriole (but not Orchard), Scarlet and Summer Tanager.

Members In The Service

They will enjoy a letter from members of the North Carolina Bird Club and The Chat would like to have the names of any others who may be in the service.

Capt. and Mrs. W. B. Crawford, Company F, 65th Infantry, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

Capt. John Sigwald, 505 Peace Street, Fayetteville.

Lt. R. H. Witherington, 8th Infantry, Camp Gordon, Ga.

Some Random Notes On Egg Collecting

H. H. Brimley, Raleigh

Following our arrival in Raleigh in 1880, the main activity of my brother, C. S., and I in endeavoring to keep the justly celebrated wolf from the not-too-securely-fastened door were a crude grade of custom taxidermy together with the collecting of bird skins and eggs for wealthy men in the big cities, who vied with each other over the comparative magnitude of their collections.

It was soon discovered that eggs, to be acceptable to the large collectors, had to be cleanly and carefully blown through one small circular hole drilled in the side of the egg, and that definite data must be provided for the "set," no single eggs or incomplete sets being accepted. The data required absolute identification, date of taking, type of nest, height above ground, situation, and approximate degree of incubation.

A rather bulky outfit was carried on our collecting trips. This included a pair of climbing irons, with extra long spurs, kept very sharp, about a hundred feet of hand-woven string (seine cord), some seventy-five feet of light, strong rope, several empty cigar boxes, plenty of cotton batting, notebook, grappling hooks for taking nests beyond the reach of one's hands, and some kind of measuring device. All being carried in a capacious game bag, and irons slung under one arm by a shoulder strap.

The spurs on those tree-climbing irons are longer, and have a more slender taper than those used by telephone linemen, who only have to climb bare poles. In climbing trees the bark has to be penetrated before a safe hold can be secured in the wood beneath, which calls for a much heavier stroke with the spur at each upward step.

I remember the time when I started up a big white oak after a hawk's nest. It was an unusually large tree, with enormous limbs springing from a rather short trunk. I could not get my arms much more than half way around it, and had to depend on finger-tip holds in the crevices of the bark. I dug my spurs in as deep as I could, but one stroke failed to reach the wood when I was about five feet above the ground, the bark in which it was imbedded slipped as soon as my weight came on it, and I promptly hit terra firma. I don't believe the old nest had anything in it, anyway.

Nests of the Barred Owl, occasionally found in the lowgrounds bordering Walnut Creek, called for some little ingenuity in securing the eggs. Always in a stub of a size large enough for the hollow to comfortably accommodate a bird of this size, the wood below the nest was often too far gone in decay—at least in places—to afford a safe hold for the spurs of the climbers.

Searching for the nests of the Louisiana Water Thrush was always an interesting experience, as their nesting sites with us were strictly confined to certain very definite localities and locations. First, one had to find a small, free-flowing stream, the upper waters of which ran through fairly

open woods, with steep banks rising not less than three feet above the water-level. Starting in at the lowest part of the stream that had suitable banks, we would wade up the branch with eyes peeled for any possible nest site, which was usually on the ground back of a tussock, or cluster of ferns, and remarkably well hidden. Even a careful scrutiny might easily miss a nest under such conditions, unless occupied at the time, when the sudden flight of its occupant would be a give-away. Only occasionally did we ever find more than one pair of birds occupying an individual stream.

The following is a verbatim copy of my field notes on the taking of a nest of this species: "April 30, 1889. 1/5 La. Water Thrush, in hollow in perpendicular bank 3 feet above running water. Nest well overhung and entrance almost hidden by hanging rootlets: of wet dead leaves, grass stems and rootlets and lined with finer ditto."

Nests of birds in general were frequently discovered by listening to and following singing males around the approximate start of their nesting, and sometimes by scattering scraps of lint cotton in the general location where one might expect to find certain species that were not averse to making use of cotton in their nest-building activities.

The following detailed description of the taking a set of eggs will illustrate the methods used in securing nests built in fairly tall trees, where the use of the irons was imperative.

A pair of Pine Warblers had been discovered building in a tall, slender Loblolly (Old Field) Pine in a grove of similar trees directly back of where the Louis Smith Dairy operates on the old Poole Road. When sufficient time had elapsed to assure the completion of the nest and the laying of the eggs, the trip was made to secure them.

At the foot of the tree I strapped on the climbers and started up. I didn't much like the job as the tree was very slender and swaying quite a lot in the strong wind that was blowing—to say nothing of the fact that the nest was a long, long way from the ground. After climbing about half-way to the nest, I stopped to look over the situation. The conclusion was that when my weight reached the very small trunk near which the nest was situated any extra puff of wind might easily swing the tree-top, with my weight added, to the point where a dangerous situation might develop. So I climbed a little higher, got out the rope (to which reference has been previously made), tied it fast to the tree and tossed the rest of it to the ground. On reaching ground-level, the lower part of the rope was carried directly to windward, drawn tight and made fast to the base of another pine that happened to be in the right place.

I soon found, on reclimbing the tree, that the guy rope was doing its full duty so I continued until level with the nest, which was quickly secured. The four eggs were wrapped separately in strips of cotton and then restored to the nest, which was then packed securely in one of the cigar boxes and carefully lowered to the ground by means of the seine cord. As soon as the box touched the ground a knot was made in the cord before dropping it. On reaching the ground, unfastening the rope and dropping it as I

reached the place of attachment, the measuring unit was brought into use and the line between the knot and the box measured, which gave the height of the nest from the ground, in this instance, 70 feet.

Previous to the adoption of packing the eggs and then lowering them by means of a cord, they had at times been carried down either in one's hat or in the mouth, neither method being particularly recommended as either safe or very enjoyable, under certain readily understood conditions; such things as addled eggs being known to occur in even the best regulated bird families!

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Collecting in England

Prior to even those remote days, my brother and I had collected eggs during our youthful days in England. We had access to several books on British Birds and their eggs, one with colored drawings of the eggs of many of the species. Of course, we usually took only one egg from a nest, blowing it by word of mouth from a big hole in the larger end, and the air being forced through a slightly smaller hole at the other end, neither egg-drill nor blowpipe being then known, at least, to us.

Fortunately for us, we were able to capitalize our ornithological knowledge by participating in the bounties provided for the taking of English Sparrows (European House Sparrow) and their eggs. As I now remember these transactions, we received the princely honorarium of two cents a dozen for eggs and two cents each for adults. Just think of it! Only twelve dozen eggs, and between us we had a sum of money equivalent to the U. S. quarter of a dollar jingling in our pants!

The find that gave us our greatest thrill was the discovery of a nest of the Long-tailed Titmouse, a rather rare bird with us and the builder of a most remarkable nest. It is oval in shape and completely enclosed except for a small opening in one side near the top. The outer wall is thick and composed of "shredded wool, green moss, spider silk and lichens, artfully interwoven until it completely surrounds the five-inch interior." The inside is then thickly lined with feathers. Coward, in his *Birds of the British Isles,* states: "Considerably over two thousand (feathers) have been counted from one nest." The number of eggs laid by the Long-tailed Titmouse varies from 8 to 12, normally, with one record of 16 young being found in a nest. This Tit is a tiny, dainty bird, equipped with an exceptionally long tail.

A few words about the justly celebrated Starling on his native heath. Among the farm buildings was a large, brick pigeon house, rectangular in shape, with the walls 4 or 5 feet thick at the base. The walls were about 20 feet high on the inside, decreasing in thickness by the width of a brick about every two or three layers of masonry, thus forming a series of steps that made climbing easy. At each step, on all four sides of the building, holes had been left in the brickwork as nesting sites for the pigeons, and

many of these holes were used by usurping Starlings. Having always been impressed with the belief that the Starlings sucked the eggs of the pigeons, the eggs of the former were destroyed whenever found.

It was quite generally believed that if you slit the tongue of a Starling, it could talk. It never occurred to me that it would have to be taught to say words, after the operation, my idea being that, once the tongue was slit, its happy owner would at once start a general conversation on any matter that came to mind.

Several hundred pigeons inhabited the structure. One other farm in the village boasted a Dove House, the two being about half a mile apart, and the inhabitants of the two intermingled as they saw fit. A percentage of the young reached the table in the form of "pigeon pies" and, when the house became too crowded, the surplus of adults was sold alive for shooting matches at live pigeons, a perfectly legitimate form of outdoor recreation, approved by our best people, in those benighted days.

The Status of The Wood Warblers in North Carolina

By C. S. Brimley

The following discussion of this group has been made in connection with an attempted study of the flyways or migration routes of birds in North Carolina, which again brings up the question of the large area in our state from which we have only scattering records.

Now there is certainly a coastal flyway along our beaches and "Banks," followed in the main by our migrating waterfowl and shore birds, and at least in the fall by the Tree and Barn Swallows and perhaps Purple Martins, and a little further inland by the Bobolinks. Of course none of these birds confine themselves entirely to that route but the great majority do.

Outside of this coastal strip there seems to be no well defined flyway or migration route in the State so far as our by no means too abundant data indicate. Of course Cliff Swallows have been reported in enormous numbers in the fall migration near Asheville and further south by T. D. Burleigh, Grace Anderson and others, but one species does not make a flyway, and hence we must gather up much more data before we can consider the matter settled or even less unsettled than at present.

It has seemed to me for some time that a study of the Wood Warblers, a large number of them transients and all but one migrants so far as this State is concerned, might help out and an attempt has been made to do this.

J. C. Crawford, formerly of this Division, told me some years ago that he understood that the main spring migration of small land birds lay not through the mountains but rather along the foothills; in other words,

through the piedmont region of the State, and our data so far as the warblers are concerned seems to some extent to bear this out.

The Wood Warblers are represented in the Atlantic States by 39 species, and two hybrids, all of which occur in North Carolina and my object in this paper is to discuss the seasonal and regional distribution of these forms in our State.

The geographical variations of a species known technically as subspecies have been ignored in this paper, or rather where more than one subspecies of a given species have been credited with occurring in the State, they have been treated as one form only, not as two or more. It may, however, be well to note that Wayne's Warbler is merely that form of the Black-throated Green which breeds in the cypress swamps of the Southeastern States, and that it is distinguished only by having a slightly shorter bill. That Cairns' Warbler is the breeding form of the Black-throated Blue found in the mountain region, and differs only in the male having a little more black on the back. That the Western Palm Warbler differs from the Yellow Palm only in having the yellow of the underparts mainly confined to the throat and breast, that Grinnell's Water Thrush is a little darker than the Northern Water Thrush, while the Louisiana Water Thrush is a distinct species. That the subspecies of the Maryland Yellow-throat are indistinguishable in the field and nearly so in the hand. So we need lose no sleep over them.

Fortunately we have practically complete lists of the birds found at Asheville, Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and Rocky Mount, and good lists from Elkin, Davidson, Statesville, Salisbury, Durham, Washington, Lake Mattamuskeet, Cape Hatteras, and Beaufort, but the region lying south of these places and east of Davidson only furnishes a few scattering records that do not enable us to get a good idea of the status of the different kinds of warblers in this region, although we can infer what it should be to some extent from our knowledge of their status in other parts of the State. Actual field work by resident bird students alone can furnish us with the information so badly needed.

The following are the best worked localities in the State with the number of species of warbler known to occur in each—Asheville, 34; Elkin, 23; Davidson, 22; Statesville, 25; Salisbury, 24; Chapel Hill, 33; Durham, 23; Raleigh, 35; Rocky Mount, 29; Washington, 19; Lake Mattamuskeet, 15; Cape Hatteras, 5; Beaufort, 16. Local bird lists from nine of these have been published at various times, six of them in THE CHAT.

Note how the number of species falls off east of Rocky Mount. Of course, this is to some extent accounted for by the scarcity of woodlands on the Outer Banks, and in the Black Lands region in the vicinity of Washington and Lake Mattamuskeet.

These 41 forms may be roughly classified as follows: according to their seasonal and regional distribution in the State.

1. Resident throughout the State, including the mountain valleys. One species, the Pine Warbler.

2. Winter visitor throughout the State. One species, Myrtle Warbler. (The Orange-crowned Warbler has also been recorded in winter from both Buncombe and Currituck counties, and the Palm Warbler also occurs in winter especially near the coast.)

3. Summer visitors of nearly or quite State-wide distribution. Eight species. Parula Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, Hooded Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Water Thrush, and Kentucky Warbler. The status of the last three in the east and southeast is uncertain, and they may rather belong in the next group.

4. Summer visitors from Raleigh or Rocky Mount westward, scarce or transients further east and south. Five species. Black and White Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chat, and Redstart.

5. Summer visitors in the mountains mostly above 3,500 or 4,000 feet up, transients further east. Five species. Golden-winged Warbler, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, and Canada Warblers. The Blue-winged Warbler may also belong here as Cairns called it a summer visitor in Buncombe County, but no evidence supporting his statement has come in since.

6. Summer visitors normally in the eastern part of the State only. Three species. Prothonotary Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, and Bachman's Warbler. The last has only been recorded from Raleigh, where it was fairly evidently a straggler, but should occur in the southeastern swamps, the second is also on record from Asheville and Tryon, while the Prothonotary, while nesting at least throughout the country east of Raleigh, has also been taken sparingly in most of the Piedmont and may breed sporadically there if it can find suitable situations. So this group is a rather unsatisfactory one.

7. Transients wherever found. Sixteen forms. Blue-winged Warbler (but see under 5), the two hybrids between the Golden-wing and the Blue-wing, namely Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Magnolia, Cape May, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Kirtland's (only on record from Rocky Mount), Palm, Water Thrush, Connecticut, Mourning, and Wilson's Warblers. However, the Orange-crowned is liable to occur in winter, and the Palm Warbler is perhaps more of a winter visitor near the coast than a transient. It may be noted also that the Tennessee is mainly a fall transient, only occasional in the spring, the Connecticut is known to occur only in the fall east of the mountains, and that the Blackpoll does not seem to occur in the mountains in the fall. The Mourning Warbler is our only species not known east of the mountains.

8. Not falling under any of preceding groups. Two species. Cerulean Warbler, mainly a transient but on record as having nested at Morganton, Statesville, and Greensboro, Black-throated Green Warbler, breeding in the mountain region and also in the cypress swamps of the east, transient in the intervening region.

Returning to the subject of migration, note that seven species, Tennessee, Cerulean, Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, Wilson's, and Canada Warblers have not been recorded east of Raleigh, that only four species of transient have been noted east and south of Rocky Mount, the Blackpoll at Beaufort, Washington, and Lake Mattamuskeet, the Black-throated Blue at Washington, Lake Ellis, Clinton, and Red Springs, the Northern Water Thrush at Clinton, and the Palm Warbler in the east generally. Even at Raleigh with the largest list (based on 58 years of continued observations), warblers seem scarcer than at Chapel Hill, and see the drop to 19 at Washington, 16 at Beaufort, and 15 at Mattamuskeet, and we can hardly infer anything but that the main stream of warbler migration lies to the west of Raleigh, rather in the Piedmont than in the coastal plain.

Also notice how Redstarts, Yellow Warblers, and Chats decrease in numbers in the east, or even pass on further north to breed, confirming the conclusions already reached above.

Principles To Consider In Selecting A State Bird

James Hutchins, Windom

When the next General Assembly convenes in January, 1943, we hope that it will be asked to designate a bird to be known as our State Bird—the ornithological emblem of North Carolina.

During the rest of this year it is important that the people of the State make up their minds as to the proper bird to be chosen. Furthermore, there must be substantial agreement by the public generally, so that we may avoid future dissatisfaction with the choice made and the consequent periodic attempts to change the designation.

This matter of making a choice of bird is more significant than many of us realize. Our birds are one of our great natural resources. They are our first line of defense against the great hordes of insect pests that threaten all vegetation. For, it is a fact that every variety of plant has a number of insect enemies. Therefore, the farmer, the gardener, the orchardist, and the timber grower owe much of their success to our wonderful bird life. In other ways the birds, next to people, are the most interesting living things on earth. They are a source of exquisite joy.

In making our selection, we should first determine what the fundamental principles are that should guide us in making a wise and satisfactory choice. What shall be our criteria?

It appears to me that the following principles are sound:

(1) The bird selected should be one that occurs in every county of North Carolina. (2) It should be reasonably abundant in all sections of the State. (3) Our choice should be an all-year resident. (4) It should be economically valuable. (5) It should have pleasing, esthetic qualities, that is, beauty of form, of flight, and of color; interesting life history; and pleasant notes.

It might be of some interest to note the birds that have won favor in other states. Yet, it seems to me, we should make our selection without regard to the action taken by any other state. A good choice made by some other state might not suit our situation in North Carolina.

Twenty-six separate birds have been designated as State Birds. The Western Meadowlark is first in eight states; the Cardinal, in four; the Mockingbird, in four; the Robin, in three; the Eastern Goldfinch, in three; the Eastern Bluebird, in two; the Mountain Bluebird, in two; the Chickadee, in two; and the Bobwhite, in two. Each of the following birds is the state-adopted bird in one state: Flicker, Cactus Wren, California Quail, Lark Bunting, Wood Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Brown Pelican, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Finch, Roadrunner, House Wren, Ruffed Grouse, Carolina Wren, Sea Gull, Hermit Thrush, Willow Goldfinch, and the Tufted Titmouse.

North Carolina and Connecticut, I believe, are the only states that have not chosen a State Bird. The March CHAT omitted Massachusetts in its list of states which have a bird, but in 1941 that state adopted the Black-capped Chickadee.

In my opinion, the following birds are among those that will be strong contenders for first place:

1. The Bobwhite, which is a resident in every county in North Carolina and is a bird that is economically valuable not only as a game bird of first importance but even more valuable to the farmer because it is a ground feeder and destroys immense quantities of insects and weed seeds. It is beautiful, if modestly clad, and its voice is one of the cheeriest in the spring and early summer.

2. The Robin: Although this bird is migratory, it is likely to be seen in almost all sections of the State throughout the year, and our State has received wide publicity because of the large robin roosts which have occurred during February in many years, the birds being counted by the hundreds of thousands. It destroys great numbers of insect pests and may be called a cut-worm specialist. It is a very friendly bird, preferring to stay close to human dwellings and its song in the springtime is delightful. It is probably the only bird which everybody knows.

3. The Song Sparrow: This bird is an all-year resident throughout the mountains and along the seacoast but is only found in the central part of the State as a winter visitor. In this way it occurs throughout the whole State. The beautiful song of this bird is well known and various subspecies have been given the Latin names of *melodia* and *euphonia* because of the pleasing quality of its song. It is valuable because it destroys so many weed seeds and also insects.

4. The Cardinal: This is another of our permanent residents of the State and is fairly evenly distributed throughout the State, even being found in various parts of the mountains far from communities. Its cheerful voice,

great beauty, and majestic appearance are a perpetual source of delight. It feeds mainly upon seeds but eats insects that are fairly large.

5. The Bluebird: It is likely to be seen throughout the whole year although it is an irregular migrant at places. It is also a useful bird in its feeding habits and one of beauty and it has also been generally considered a symbol of happiness. Many people associate this bird with the return of spring.

6. The Mocking Bird: This bird has the values given to the others of being distributed throughout the State and being one whose food habits are beneficial to humans. It is also our most notable songster with an extensive repertoire which it uses both by day and by night.

It is clear that the members of the North Carolina Bird Club have a rare opportunity to help the people of the State make an intelligent and satisfactory choice. At the same time we have an opportunity of educating our people as to the real value of our birds and also leading them to enjoy these birds as natural resources through appreciation and understanding of their place in the economy of nature.

Make your choice of the bird to be known as our State Bird, write its name on a card, together with your name, and send to: L. H. Jobe, Editor, N. C. Public School Bulletin, Raleigh, N. C.

Aids To Amateurs

OUR COMMON FLYCATCHERS

C. S. Brimley, Raleigh

Our flycatchers are small to medium-sized birds, none quite as large as a robin, with flattened bills, broad at the base and narrowed and slightly hooked at tip. They feed by catching insects on the wing; flying out from some perch to pick up some unlucky bug. They constantly turn the head from side to side in search of victims. The snapping of the bill when an insect is caught is often quite audible. They never hop about among the branches of trees looking for insects, and any bird so doing is not a flycatcher.

Five kinds are common throughout the State, and five more are on record but rare. At present I am confining myself to the first five.

The largest and probably the best known species is the Kingbird or Beemartin, a bird a little larger than a Wood Thrush, black above, white beneath, *the tail narrowly and evenly tipped with white,* this last character being possessed by no other of our birds. It frequents open spaces, and nests in trees, usually in a fork. It is best known for its habit of driving other birds, even much larger than itself, from the vicinity of its nest.

Our other large species is the Crested Flycatcher, about the same size as a Kingbird, but with proportionately shorter wings and longer tail. It is olivaceous above with chestnut wings and tail, *the underparts are ashy in front, yellow behind,* again a unique combination in a bird of its size. It inhabits woodlands and nests in a hollow tree, or any other suitable cavity, natural or artificial, laying some 5 or 6 eggs to the set, more than is usual in the family. It often adorns its nest with a piece of the cast-off skin of a snake. The head is puffy, not actually crested.

These are our two largest and most distinctive species, the other three are smaller.

The Phoebe is about the size of a Bluebird, grayish-brown above, the head darker, underparts whitish, wing bars very inconspicuous. It nests under bridges, on a rafter under a porch, and in similar situations, whence it is locally called Bridge Pewee or House Pewee.

The Wood Pewee is smaller, dirty whitish beneath and with distinct white wing bars. It builds a lichen-covered nest on the horizontal limb of a tree, and is sometimes called the Moss Pewee.

The Acadian Flycatcher is slightly smaller, a little larger than a Field Sparrow, olive-green above (not olive-brown like the two preceding), white or slightly yellowish beneath, the wing bars distinct. It builds a saucer-shaped nest in the fork of some slender limb of a small tree growing in damp woods, in a ravine or near the edge of a stream. It usually gives an explosive kind of note when it settles on its perch, or even when perching.

In Memoriam

FREDERICK D. SAMPSON was born February 11, 1867, at Gravesend, Kent, England, one of a large family of children talented in both art and music. He came to America at sixteen to live with an uncle who owned a ranch in the west, and became a naturalized citizen as soon as he reached the age of twenty-one. He became superintendent of line and maintenance and construction for the Duke Power Company in Charlotte. His spare time was used in the observation and enjoyment of nature. When his work day was finished he started hunting wild flowers and birds. On his last day he wrote a short entry in his journal.

Mrs. Edwin Clarkson.

MISS ROSE CHAPMAN, of Asheville, accomplished great things because she was a dreamer. She acquired 216 acres of beautiful woodland near Arden, N. C., and named it for her mother's Dublin Home, "Rosecraggon." Suddenly the realization came that all the land had been sold for building lots but an 18-acre plot. She said, "I felt beaten but I climbed the Azalea Trail again and the vision came to save it." She began sending out letters explaining her plan of a wildlife sanctuary and inviting partners in the enterprise. Miss Chapman was born in Ireland and died in Asheville in 1940. Rosecraggon Wood Sanctuary is her memorial.

MISS LAURA LAZENBY, of Statesville, was born in Turnersburg. She received her academic training at Thomasville Female College and at Statesville Female College but the World was her University. Miss Lazenby was a Junior Secretary for the former Audubon Society of North Carolina and a member of the North Carolina Bird Club. She was an inspiration in her schoolroom, her church and in the Statesville Audubon Club. Her yard was a bird haven. Friends pausing at her gate today hear the strains of the "winged family" her charity attracted. Their presence is the best memorial and their songs the sweetest requiem.

Grace Anderson.

Field Notes and News

WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF YELLOWTHROATS *GEOTHLYPIS TRICHAS* BY NATURAL CAUSES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

I learn by clippings from the Columbia, S. C., *State* sent me by Ernest Seeman, of Erwin, Tennessee, that on Friday, May 15, of this year, at about 4:30 a.m., there was a regular "rain" of Yellowthroats in the towns of Cheraw and Pageland, about 35 miles apart in the northeast and northwest corners of Chesterfield County, and also at Bishopville, some forty-five miles further south in Lee County. The Yellowthroats at that time fell out of the sky in large numbers at each place, from 500 to 1,000 having been noted at Pageland, "hundreds" at Cheraw, and about 400 to 500 at Bishopville. Most of them were dead when they reached the earth but a few were still feebly kicking. They were evidently speciments of the northern form of the species on their way to their breeding grounds in the northern tier of states and Canada, the local Carolina birds having arrived some six weeks earlier.

Various theories have been advanced to account for this catastrophe, but the most reasonable one seems to be that put forward by Harry Hampton of the Columbia *State* in its "Woods and Waters" column to the effect that the birds had been drawn up into a region of frozen and rarefied air, and there chilled till they could no longer fly but dropped dead or dying to the earth below. I am inclined to agree with him but, to be a little more vague, that is, I think they entered or were enveloped by or blown into just such an area, and met their fate as he suggests.

If this tragedy were spread over the whole area between these three places the death toll must have been enormous, running into the millions, far exceeding anything their terrestrial enemies could accomplish.

This phenomenon is important because (1) it indicates the time at which the Northern Yellowthroat migrates in large quantities; (2) it indicates the enormous numbers of these birds that migrate, for other birds probably fell over the surrounding territory in about the same ratio as reported from these three points; (3) this may furnish some clue as to the migration route used by these birds.

C. S. Brimley,
N. C. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh.

ALBINO ROBIN AT CHARLOTTE. A robin was seen at Latta Park, Charlotte, April 1-7, 1942, which was partly albino. Photographs were made of the bird at a few feet and they clearly show the prominent white markings.—Jack Dermid, 520 E. Worthington Avenue, Charlotte, N. C.

New Members

Miss Betty Baise, Mayodan.

Mrs. C. W. Ballanger, Box 126, Tryon.

Mr. John L. Beal, Gastonia.

Mr. H. P. Bearden, 1917 Chatham Ave., Charlotte.

Mrs. J. S. Betts, 424 N. Elm Street, Greensboro.

Mrs. George E. Bisanar, 1115 Seventeenth St., Hickory.

Miss Sally S. Bogart, N. Market Street, Washington.

Mr. James Brady, Jr., West End Ave., Statesville.

Miss Mary H. Bridgers, 1201 St. Andrew St., Tarboro.

Miss Blanche Broadway, 1203 N. Gregson, Durham.

Mrs. B. C. Brock, Farmington.

Mrs. Harold W. Brown, Laurel Hill Road, Chapel Hill.

Mrs. J. A. Bush, 310 S. Mulberry St., Lenoir.

Miss Marjorie Cannon, 1001 Madison Ave., Roanoke Rapids.

Mr. B. R. Chamberlain, 1320 Biltmore Drive, Charlotte.

Miss Ida May Cheatham, Box 325, Weldon.

Miss Hazel Cobb's Grade, 809 Jackson Ave., Roanoke Rapids.

Mrs. H. A. Codington, 1612 Chestnut St., Wilmington.

Miss Omara Daniel, Keyesville, Va.

Dr. James W. Davis, Statesville.

Mrs. Harry M. Flack, 361 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte, Mich.

Miss Thelma Garriss, 739 Roanoke Ave., Roanoke Rapids.

Mrs. Monroe Gilmour, 1122 Harding Place, Charlotte.

Mrs. Fletcher H. Gregory, Halifax.

Mr. J. B. Hall, Halifax.

Miss Louise M. Haynes, New England Home, Southern Pines.

Mrs. B. D. Hendrix, 1615 Oaklawn Ave., Charlotte.

Mr. W. P. Hickey, 1437 Scotland Ave., Charlotte.

Dr. Samuel C. Hodges, 103 E. Main St., Greenwood, S. C.

Mr. L. S. Inscoe, Nashville.

Mrs. F. J. Jarman, 402 Hamilton St., Roanoke Rapids.

Miss Estelle Knight, 901 W. Trinity Ave., Durham.

Miss Perci Aileen Lazenby, 222 W. Race St., Statesville.

Mr. Allen L. Mills, Jr., Race St., Statesville.

Mr. W. L. Manning, Box 166, Roanoke Rapids.

Morehead City Girl Scouts, Morehead City.

Mr. Robert Overing, R. F. D. 4, Raleigh.

Mr. Thomas J. Parks, Lenoir.

Mrs. Archie C. Powell, 1907 Everett St., Winston-Salem.

Mr. Paul A. Reid, Elizabeth City.

Miss Emma Sewell, 906 Franklin St., Roanoke Rapids.

Mrs. Flake A. Sherrill, Oakland Hgts., Statesville.

Mr. John R. Shipley, 1090 Arber Road, Winston-Salem.

Mr. Chas. H. Stone, 1801 Queens Road, Charlotte.

Miss Elizabeth Tait, Coltrane Hall, Roanoke Rapids.

Mr. E. G. Twiss, 116 N. Race St., Statesville.

Miss Frances Wahl, E. C. T. C., Greenville.

Miss Margaret Watson, Elm City.

Mrs. Hattie Weinberg, Greensboro.

Miss Montgomery Whaling, Tryon.

Mr. John C. Whitaker, Brookstown Road, Winston-Salem.

Miss Hazel Whitehurst, 809 Jackson St., Roanoke Rapids.

Whiteville High School, c/o Mr. G. O. Rogers, Whiteville.

Birds of North Carolina

This 340-page book has been delayed by conditions beyond our control. We know you understand these conditions and we appreciate your consideration. We now expect to make deliveries beginning in late June or early July.

Prepublication subscriptions for $2.25 will be taken until late in June. The regular price of $3.50 will apply after the book comes from press. Payments, subscriptions and requests for more information may be made to N. C. Bird Club—Book Fund, and sent to Harry T. Davis, Treasurer, c/o State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

VOL. VI. SEPTEMBER, 1942 No. 4

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB
At State College Station
Raleigh, N. C.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

JOHN GREY, JR., *Editor* THOMAS L. QUAY, *Associate Editor*

State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.

"North Carolina was the first of the Southern States to take an active stand in the matter of preserving its wild bird and animal resources."

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Members, who pay dues of $1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of $5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of $25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of $100.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer: Ralph Brimley, 1403 Madison Avenue, Greensboro.

The President's Message

We do not need a car or seven league boots to find more adventure than befell that knight of La Mancha. And within reach are experiences as varied as those recorded by a curate of Selborne. In the year 1845 the intensive plan of watching nature was tried at Walden. It was immortal. We hear the well known voice, "I have learned that the swiftest traveller is he that goes a-foot." Every yard in the North Carolina Bird Club is undiscovered country, variable each day as if enchanted. The list of species will be shorter here than abroad but the facts about a bird flash with interest and beauty alien to catalogs. A few steps from our door lies a world fleet with life, a living museum, ancient and ever new. "It is more than forty years," run the illumined words on a page of *Selborne,* "that I have paid some attention to the ornithology of this district, without being able to exhaust the subject; new occurrences still arise as long as any inquiries are kept alive." When Linnaeus took the world's first field trip he loaded himself wih paraphernalia, but the notebook is the only necessary equipment. We may fill it to please our fancy, with an exclusive study or with all the birds, insects, plants and small animals, even the weather, "since," wrote Gilbert White, "the weather of a district is undoubtedly part of its natural history." Today the nature watcher has no regret for the newspaper's lost sun and rain, with clouds and winds printing tomorrow's report across the sky. The nature watcher has no regret for lost horizons as he listens to the question asked of Agassiz, how far he had traveled on his vacation, and the great naturalist's reply, "I got halfway across my back yard."

Very sincerely yours,

GRACE ANDERSON.

Lenoir Audubon Club Organized

MRS. G. F. HARPER, Lenoir

With great enthusiasm, a group of fifteen men, women, and children met at the Chamber of Commerce recently to organize the Lenoir Audubon Club. Three others, unable to be present, added their names as charter members, which was a good start.

Officers elected: President, Mrs. C. S. Warren; Vice-President, R. T. Greer; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Helen Myers. Meetings are to be held in the Chamber of Commerce the first Tuesday in each month.

The Club voted to invite as speaker for the next meeting the Rev. O. A. Althouse, of Hickory, suggesting that he tell something of work which Hickory has done in becoming a city sanctuary. Many hoped that Dr. Althouse would stimulate us to "go and do likewise."

The purpose of the Club, besides the great pleasure that comes from meeting with friends who share the same hobby, is to increase the general interest in bird life in the community, which will result inevitably in a great increase in our bird population.

Sight Records

Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Charleston, S. C.

Probably there is no one phase of ornithology which so well deserves the term "bone of contention" as does the matter of sight records. It is a subject about which much has been written and little decided, thereby reminding one of Mark Twain's comment on weather! There was a time not many years ago, when the sight record was completely ignored by many, but this attitude has changed greatly in recent years, principally because of the great increase of interest in bird-study and the ever-growing army of amateur observers, who have undoubtedly contributed considerably to our present-day knowledge. One wonders at times, however, whether the pendulum has not swung too far in such direction.

There are two extreme views on this matter of sight records. One is that it is safer to reject all of them flatly, not that the veracity of the observer is called in question, but simply because of the policy long followed by some individuals and institutions, never to record a species as occurring in a locality until reports of it are backed by an actual specimen. This is the usual "museum policy." The writer can readily understand it as he was, for many years, in museum work. Many, however, consider it too extreme, and perhaps it is. In some cases it undoubtedly curtails the existence of certain records which are accurate.

The other extreme is to accept any sight record offered. This has so often resulted in embarrassment and mistakes that it has much to condemn it. Therefore, the course which is most frequently adopted is to try to strike the happy medium, which at once produces the question . . . what *is* the happy medium? Therein lies all of the argument, and often acrimonious argument, connected with sight records!

The writer realizes that in dealing with this subject at all, he is playing with dynamite. At the same time, some have to deal with explosives and there are some facts about this type which all of us would do well to bear in mind and benefit from.

The ever-looming basis of the sight record is the human equation. How good is the observer who submits it? How much experience has he or she had? How well do they know the species reported, assuming that it is a rare one? How prone are they to jump at conclusions which may be erroneous?

The writer feels definitely assured that there are very few observers who deliberately make erroneous reports. There are some people, of course, who desire the limelight, who like to see their names in the papers, anxious to create an impression. There will always be some such, human nature being what it is. However, the great majority of sight records are given in fullest sincerity. They may be erroneous but not intentionally so. The observer thinks, nay, feels certain that he (she) is correct. It comes back, then, to ability in field identification, a knowledge of a species'

appearance even though that species has never before been observed in life. How can such be gained? Only by wide study of published material; reading, thinking and memorizing, and the examination of specimens themselves in collections. How many amateur observers concentrate thus?

Light Is a Factor

Optical illusions are not infrequent in field work. They *must* be considered and watched for. Light is a tremendous factor in the mental recording of shape, color and size. Experienced observers have been badly fooled by it at times. Fog, shadow, cloud and sunlight, all have varying effects on birds seen in the field. They appear larger at times than others, or smaller; colors are not what they sometimes seem, with the result that bird plumage is described by perfectly sincere observers in patterns which do not exist. No misleading information is intended; it is simply that the observer has *not* seen what he feels certain he *has* seen!

That the rejection of all sight records works hardship on careful, competent observers is unquestioned. Also, the acceptance of some and the rejection of others is highly irritating and makes for hard feeling. Why, asks the rejected one, is so-and-so's word better than mine? It is not so much whether one's word is better than another's, but acceptance or rejection is usually based on reputation. But, you ask, what if an observer finds himself in a strange area where he is not known? What chance has he? He has no reputation one way or the other amid strangers, or so he thinks. As a matter of fact, in ornithology, one's reputation is much better known than he thinks it is, even in stranger localities! It often precedes one. Ornithology is still a somewhat restricted field and its adherents are enthusiasts. Do you not yourself know the names and reputations of observers whom you have never seen? So, then, a reputation is basically essential in many ways. This does not mean that ornithology tends toward the theory that all men are liars until proved truthful. By no means. It is, if you will, a business proposition. What total stranger, for instance, could enter a bank and present a check at the window and have it cashed without question? How could he make a purchase at a store and ask to have it charged to an unknown? He could not. This does not mean that the bank and the store consider him dishonest. But because there are dishonest people in the world business has to be careful. Credit bureaus are wonderfully valuable things to a community; it would be an excellent thing if something of the sort could be worked out for ornithological publications! Surely, many an editor would welcome it!

Publish Your Observations

One of the most obvious ways in which ornithological reputations are made is the printed page. Indeed, in some ornithological societies a record of publication is the main criterion in judging a person simply because it is only by that means that he is known at all to members of the group. In an organization claiming members from many states, for instance, this is always brought up.

The writer has known several highly capable observers and students who rarely, if ever, publish anything. This is a great mistake. They may not do so from some innate shrinking from publicity. They do not desire the limelight. However, this is the wrong attitude entirely. None of us should publish with the sole desire to be in the limelight, but if we do not put down what we know about certain birds, how are others to find out these things? It is not a question of seeking publicity, but the endeavor to further the science of ornithology. How little, indeed, would most of us know if it were not for the fact that we can read about what others have found. The tremendous value of the current bird-books, and those which are now classics, would never have been available had their authors held the attitude that they were pushing themselves. It is essential that publication be carried on, so we say without qualification to the amateur, publish . . . publish!

This advice, of course, brings up the sight record inevitably. In regard to the beginner, it is often unfortunately the case that he (she) seem rather inclined to see the unusual. They have their reputation to make, for there is none to start with. It is, of course, somewhat natural that there is a thrill in seeing a bird which does not "belong" in one's area. There is a greater "kick" in reporting a rare instance of avian occurrence than the prosaic happenings of one's back yard. But it is something which can easily be overdone, despite the fact that the back yard sometimes exhibits amazing records! The beginner, then, should go slowly in reporting rarities for his or her own good. Not that their light should be hidden under a bushel, but that excessive care be used at all times. Any reasonable person will at once realize the importance of care, but sometimes it is overlooked.

The writer recalls an instance of an observer, new to the country and bird study, who reported to him that he had seen a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. The area involved was some thousand miles or so east of the normal range of this species. The Scissor-tail is such an absolutely distinctive bird that it would be difficult to be wrong about it, but in this case investigation of the spot and the bird revealed a Mockingbird which had suffered an accident to its tail, resulting in the loss of all the feathers except the outer ones. The general grayish tone and long "forked" tail had been noted and the conviction present in the observer's mind that a Scissor-tail had been seen! With a little more care, perhaps, he would have seen for himself that such was not the case.

Keep Looking Till You Are Positive

Even long experience is sometimes at fault. Who has not made mistakes in field identification? But because mistakes have been made is not a sign of incompetence necessarily. There is the matter of light, above referred to. It once played a most remarkable trick on two friends of the writer's, two men who are known this country over as naturalists. They were investigating one of the barrier islands of the South Carolina coast one day, and came out at the end of a long pond, heavily bordered with semi-tropical

jungle. It was a hazy day with the light filtering through low clouds. Looking up toward the opposite end of the pond they saw several birds, large birds it seemed, and after watching them for a while through binoculars, agreed that they were geese. Geese are not common on that coast, so they determined to get a closer look. Retiring into the woods, they went on down the shoreline and came out again about halfway of the pond. The birds were still there but it was at once apparent that they were not geese. They were large ducks, Mallards or Blacks perhaps; no color was visible. Again they ducked into the woods and proceeded further and again they came out to the shore for another look. This time the birds were identified for what they really were—Pied-billed Grebes! Seems incredible does it not?

Here were two men, old hands in the woods, one a nature artist of national reputation, the other as familiar with the country and its birds as the palm of his hand. And both of them has thought that Pied-billed Grebes were geese at a distance. It was the light condition. And yet, if either of these men had reported geese in that area, they would have been believed without an instant's hesitation. They would have been perfectly sincere in it and the observation would have been erroneous. But . . . they followed up the first impression and they made sure.

This light matter should always be present in an observer's mind. The writer has time and again had observers report to him that they had positively seen Ivory-billed Woodpeckers (were ready to take oath on it) because they had seen a large black and white woodpecker with a white bill. In each instant the birds subsequently proved to be Pileated. But Pileated Woodpeckers do not have white bills. Neither did these birds! The observers thought so, were certain of it, but as in at least three similar cases which the writer has witnessed, the bill appeared to be white because of the way the light happened to strike it. Having been fortunate enough to see the Ivory-bill several times, the writer would consider the white bill to be the poorest sort of field mark, because of the above possibility.

Many of the older ornithologists were intolerant of sight records and some of the younger generation still are! Such disbelief is, of course, a personal trait. Some people will believe anything; others will believe nothing until shown. Intolerance is always regrettable but one must expect to encounter it at times. The writer recalls one reporting a Willet to an ornithologist friend of his on the coast of Maine. The Willet does not "belong" there. The friend was very frankly incredulous and said so! Having been all but born and raised with Willets, the writer knew them intimately but . . . no, it could not be. The next day the doubter saw the Willet. He was convinced then, but not before.

That Caracara Record

There have, of course, been some very unfortunate examples of the reverse. Publishing the findings of an observer who was not known and accepting them without question. Later on, finding that the record was erroneous, a correction was necessary. This is highly regrettable, as any-

thing which has once appeared in print is hard to recall. So many do not see the correction, even if it appears. An instance is the supposedly only record for the Caracara for North Carolina. It was published and found its way eventually into no less an authoritative work than *Bent's Life Histories*. But it was erroneous! It was later rejected publicly because of the observer's obvious inability to recognize birds, but not until four years had passed was this found out! How many readers who saw the published record saw the subsequent correction?

Where, then, must one draw the line? Only perhaps in the discretion of the editor of the journal to which the record is submitted; only after a careful study of the reputation of the observer, not through any inherent doubt of him, or her, but simply to make certain. Only after a sifting of the evidence. As for the observer, he or she should strive always to be as thoroughly careful as possible, and to present every angle of the observation for study. No one should object to such practice. If the observation should be rejected it should leave no hard feelings, though this is difficult to avoid sometimes.

When at all possible, the observer ought to produce the specimen! Then, of course, no doubt exists. However, this is by no means always possible. The writer has on several occasions been unable to produce the bird which figured in a rare sense. Specimens seen on a refuge where collecting is prohibited; specimens seen at times when a gun is not available, all this takes place. Much depends on the observer's presentation of his case, and always . . . his ability.

It is realized that this article has settled nothing! However, it might at least be an explanation of why sight records should be most carefully considered before submitting them to a journal, and a plea to observers to have a thought of consideration for the much harassed editor who often finds himself in a very delicate and unenviable "spot"!

Spying On Sister Pewee

W. G. Templeton, Statesville

Some time ago you asked me to pry into the private life of some good American bird, and watch, and record, his or her every move, so I am endeavoring to do just that. My subject is a Wood Pewee, at Boone, North Carolina, that I caught red-handed, wiping his mouth on a dead limb, just like Morris or I wipe our mouth on our coat sleeve, after a deep draft of cool buttermilk, down at the spring. Now the Pewee kept coming back to the same spot, so I called my brother, W. L. Templeton, of Miami, Florida, in on the case. Together we watched Mrs. Pewee for some time until we were convinced that Mrs. Pewee was going to build a nest, here and now, on this spot.

Mrs. Pewee was deceived, I feel sure, by the slope of the hill on which the tree stood; she must have been looking west or down the hill, for on

this side it is 35 feet to the ground from her nest, but on the east side it is only 8 feet to the ground. This was on Tuesday, June 23, 1942, at 10:00 a.m. After starting her nest, Pewee was entirely oblivious of our presence, and on Wednesday when five members of the Boone Bird Club were with us Pewee worked right on.

Pewee flew directly into a cobweb, smearing its breast and wings with the sticky substance, and then back she would come to this same spot, roll and rub its breast and wings all over the foundation she was preparing to build on.

We have watched her every day, and today (July 1) a very significant thing happened: Mr. Pewee showed up for the first time to inspect her handiwork, and I thought I saw a gesture of complaint, for she has been building 8 days now and shows no signs of dedicating the structure with the deposit of her first egg. We have placed a ladder close by so we can be sure when the egg laying begins.

[Editor's Note: Mr. Templeton here makes a real contribution to our knowledge of the nesting habits of the Pewee. Checking his statements with A. C. Bent's *Life Histories of North American Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows, and Their Allies*, p. 268 f, I notice no mention of spider web being used to help secure the foundation to the limb. In fact, the only suggestion there as to how the materials are made to adhere to the horizontal limb is by the bird wiping its bill on the limb. There was also no mention of the length of time usually devoted to building before laying commenced, so we shall hope for more details.]

New Members

Miss Susan J. Allen, 713 Massachusetts Ave., Southern Pines.

Frank Bell, Tuxedo.

Mrs. Norman C. Corden, Blowing Rock.

Dr. Carlton C. Curtiss, Tryon.

Mrs. O. R. Dennis, Advance, R. 1.

1st Lt. Eugene H. Driver, C. W. S. Replacement Training Center, Edgewood Arsenal, Md.

E. V. Floyd, 301 Dixie Trail, Raleigh.

Mrs. R. A. Fowler, 310 Dixie Trail, Raleigh.

Mrs. H. C. Hayes, Blowing Rock.

J. B. Houston, Jr., 307 Beall St., Lenoir.

Miss Rebecca Isenhour, Blowing Rock.

Miss Ellen Joyner, 1504 Lindy Ave., Rocky Mount.

Miss Nancy Lindau, Blowing Rock.

Miss Judith Lindau, Blowing Rock.

Mrs. Harriette A. Lee, Tryon.

R. F. Logan, R. 1, Erwin Rd., Durham.

Miss Anne Morgan, Skyland.

Mrs. James Maclays, Tryon.

Miss Anne Nash, Point of Pines, Tryon.

T. L. O'Briant, 538 Vance St., Roanoke Rapids.

Richard J. Reynolds, 3rd, Robin Hood Road, Winston-Salem.

Lincoln M. Rutledge, Tryon.

James M. Seegar, Reynolda.

James L. Stephens, Jr., Lumberton.

Miss Eleanor Taylor, Chatham Mfg. Co., Elkin.

Dr. Anne H. Thomas, Box 472, Blowing Rock.

C. V. Tompkins, Camp Yonahnoka, Linville.

Miss Mary Ann Warnker, Reynolda.

Chas. C. West, Box 324, Tryon.

Aids To Amateurs

NOTES ON FALL WARBLERS

C. S. Brimley, Raleigh

A number of our species of warbler are not represented in the fall by full-plumaged males at all, for the simple reason that in these species, as also in the case of the Scarlet Tanager and Bobolink, the adult male plumage is replaced at the fall moult by a much duller coat, more or less closely resembling that of the female. The principal species that do so are the following:

Parula Warbler. Bluish-gray above with the back mostly yellowish-olive, this not sharply defined against the gray of head, wings and tail; underparts paler yellow than in spring with little if any evidence of the dark breast band of the spring; females even duller; wing bars conspicuous.

Cape May Warbler. Color in fall very variable: from nearly full plumage to specimens in which the breast is only faintly yellowish with heavy but not very distinct streaks; in others it is bright yellow with numerous, sharply defined streaks; rump varying from yellow typically to possessing only faint traces of that color; wing patch varying from large and yellowish, to two rather faint whitish wing bars.

Blackburnian Warbler. Back rather faintly streaked with blackish and yellowish; a yellow to yellowish superciliary line; underparts yellow with rather faint streaking; wing bars distinct.

Magnolia Warbler. Dusky yellow olive above, rump yellow, plain yellow beneath; if it chooses to spread its tail the narrow white bar across its middle will always distinguish it from anything else.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Yellowish-olive above, white below, no other conspicuous markings.

Blackpoll Warbler. Olive, faintly streaked with blackish above, greenish-yellow, faintly streaked below; under tail-coverts white.

Baybreasted Warbler. Similar but adult males show traces of chestnut on sides which the Blackpoll does not, and the under tail-coverts are yellowish, not white. Personally, I have never seen a fall specimen and doubt if the species occurs at Raleigh, as we have only a single spring (sight) record.

Black-throated Green Warbler. The black of the throat is obscured or replaced by whitish; the yellow sides of the head combined with the more or less dusky throat are good field marks.

The Myrtle Warbler. This loses all its heavy black and yellow markings, the yellow though present being much more restricted and less evident except on the rump, so that except for its streaked breast, it looks not unlike a rather shabby Chipping Sparrow with a yellow rump.

In the fall the yellows are often clearer and softer, and paler than in the spring, especially so in the Pine Warbler, though the plumage is essentially the same.

Questions and Answers

Phillips Russell, Fremont Shepherd, and Thomas Odum, Chapel Hill

What are the large white birds seen around ponds and streams in late summer and early fall? Where do they come from?

They are most commonly the immature Little Blue Heron (about 2 ft., dark bill and dark legs and feet), and less commonly the Snowy Egret (2 ft., dark bill, dark legs, *yellow* feet), and the American Egret (3 ft., *yellow* bill, dark legs and feet). Following the breeding season, adult and young wander northward and inland till cool weather. The cause of this migration is not yet proved. Information needed: (1) route, whether across country or along watercourses; (2) food during migration.

What species of warblers will be first to reach North Carolina areas on the southward migration? When can I begin to look for them?

Bird students in the mountains can look for the so-called migrant warblers as breeders. But in the rest of the State in the last two weeks of August bird students can expect to see the first of this interesting group known as transient warblers. The following are expected to arrive in piedmont North Carolina in late August and early September: Worm-eating Warbler, Northern Water-thrush, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Black-throated Blue, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Tennessee, Canada, and Black-throated Green Warblers. Parula Warblers flood areas where they do not breed, beginning in July. Information needed: migration dates, plumage, abundance, amount of song.

How do you account for the large number of Nighthawks, or Bull-bats, that suddenly appear over our tobacco fields at this season, whereas we have seen only two or three regularly until a few days ago?

This inquirer has been witnessing one of the earliest migrations. They begin forming in flocks now, but rarely is the same flock seen on two different days. Although named Nighthawk, this bird regularly migrates by day, and a common flyway is used, usually down a river course or valley. The Nighthawks seen now may have come from as far north as Hudson's Bay and may go on as far south as Argentina. They have been wantonly killed for "sport" during this period because they come so fearlessly close to people in the fields.

Has anybody seen a Cedar Waxwing's nest this past summer, and what are the eggs like?

If any reader has recently seen this bird's nest in the middle or eastern part of the State, we should like to hear about the identifying marks. The Waxwing is fairly common in winter, but we know little of its summer habits. It has several times been reported as breeding in the mountains in late summer, but rarely elsewhere. C. S. Brimley describes the eggs as a slaty ground color, tinted with olive and marked with dark brown and purple blotches.

The Birds of North Carolina—An Appraisal

John Grey, Raleigh

Taking for granted that you already have your copy and have been proudly showing it to your friends, we wonder if you realize just how good a book you have. You got a bargain; novels cost about one cent a page, and you paid a little over half that much per page and got 37 pages of illustrations (20 of them in color) and 140 drawings of birds—at least ten dollars worth of book. You are also realizing what a handy size it is, easy to slip into a bag for a vacation, small enough for a child to handle easily, and yet giving accurate and complete information on 396 different kinds of birds.

North Carolina was not the first Southern State to have a bird book, but it was the first with descriptive lists and under State auspices; also, it is the first State to revise its book and bring it up to date. *The Birds of South Carolina* by Wayne was first in 1910, then came *Birds of Virginia* by Bailey in 1913, *Birds of North Carolina* in 1919, *Birds of Alabama* by Howell in 1924, *Florida Bird Life* by Howell in 1932, and *Bird Life of Louisiana* by Oberholser in 1938. Only the last two and this new one are now readily available, and since the Louisiana book has no descriptions of species and few pictures we have only *Florida Bird Life* which can be compared with the *Birds of North Carolina*. In some respects the Florida book surpasses ours: it has some 600 pages, describes 423 forms of bird life, has the earliest observation in the United States (1562), makes a more thorough study of the distribution of individual species throughout that State, and gives more of the habits and food of various birds. In other ways, our book surpasses that of Florida: better job of printing and easier to read, more illustrations, and I prefer the colored plates of ours as well as being pleased that nothing can surpass those black-and-white pictures of Roger Tory Peterson—they just do not come better than those. Also our book is better balanced in its appeal both to school children and to the professional ornithologist. Then, too, we have the advantage of those ten years since Florida issued their book. All in all, we have one swell book.

You also have a useful book. Let's illustrate this by taking a specific case. Suppose you live in Greensboro and see a Scarlet Tanager on May 2nd. By turning to No. 344 in the Bird Book you can first reassure yourself that it was a Scarlet Tanager you saw, and not the Summer Tanager, for there is a good description of the bird, pointing out the distinguishing points, and you are referred to a plate where the bird appears in natural colors. However, you want to know whether this is an unusual record about which you should write The Chat. So you read the "Range in North Carolina" and learn that while the bird nests in the mountains it is probably a transient in the rest of the State. That still leaves a question in your mind, for Pilot Mountain is not far away, and you wonder if perhaps this bird is going to nest near Greensboro. So, you read the rest of the information. You learn that May 2nd is about the usual time the

Scarlet Tanager migrates throughout the State, but you find that there are two records of the bird nesting east of you at Durham. That raises the question in your mind, "Even though this bird may be migrating through, is it not possible that it may nest around here?" Then you decide to keep a lookout for the Scarlet Tanager and its nest. So, you wonder what kind of nest you are going to look for; on the ground, in bushes, or in a tree. Reading a bit farther in the book you have a description of the nest and likely location. Now you know what you are looking for, and you also know the significance of such a nest if you were to find it.

Constructive Criticism

There appear to me two chief criticisms of the book: a negative criticism which has to do with the choice of human-interest material which has been included, and a positive one as to what might be included in the next revision of the book.

Negatively: A careful reading of the book makes one conscious of the space taken up by accounts of the birds as Pearson has seen them in various places. In most cases these accounts do not particularly help us understand the birds in North Carolina, and they crowd out experiences within the State which are just as interesting and more informative. A case in point is the section on the swallows. The Tree Swallow is given about 500 words, a third of which is given over to what Pearson saw and heard in New England about the unusual in nesting habits; although we have been told in the first paragraph of the general nesting habits and that the birds do not breed in North Carolina. Now suppose that same amount of space had been assigned to the Cliff Swallow, and we were given the amazing observations of Thomas D. Burleigh, Grace Anderson, Wm. T. McIlwaine, and others, that these birds congregate at Swannanoa by the thousands in early fall, but that whence they come and whither they go is as yet uncertain. Someone might have been moved to watch the swallow migration and add to our knowledge.

One of the most notable omissions of human interest incidents happening within the State is the experience of H. H. Brimley with a Phoebe while on a deer stand. The bird lit on his gun barrel, then on his cap, and finally pecked mosquitoes from his face. A. C. Bent quotes this from the *Auk* in *Life Histories of North American Flycatchers,* etc., p. 148. Another North Carolina observation which has become famous and is omitted is that of Alexander Sprunt, Jr., watching Duck Hawks on Grandfather's Mountain with one hawk diving from a great height at the hawk below him and passing by so closely that the lower hawk rolled over and over from the force of the breeze created by the diving bird. This was repeated several times by both hawks. (Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey,* Vol. 2, page 59.)

Positively: The book would be strengthened by including some of the information which has been gathered by the various life histories of birds: not only those of Bent, but the studies which have been made of particular species by someone like Eugene Odum of Chapel Hill on the Chickadee—

and there are dozens of others published. To my mind it would have strengthened the book tremendously to have gathered from these writings various characteristics and habits that would have helped us become acquainted with the birds. It would have been helpful if the reader had even been referred to these studies so that he might know where to find the additional data for himself.

However, it is a good book, yes it is even more. It is an excellent book of which we are proud, and for which we are grateful.

Those Who Made The Bird Book Possible

The original impetus to revise the book came from C. S. Brimley back in 1936 when he kept plugging the idea that if we had a club of those interested in birds it would help create a demand for the book. Out of this grew the North Carolina Bird Club in 1937. In 1939 H. H. Brimley talked the matter over with T. Gilbert Pearson and it was decided that the three original authors would revise the book, with Pearson doing the writing and the Brimleys furnishing the data. Three years of hard work went into the writing and revising of the work, some parts having been rewritten many times, and all data has been brought up to 1942. The book comes as one more great achievement of these three men who have done so much to make us appreciate the natural history of North Carolina. The State is trebly fortunate in having them.

Without Harry Davis of the North Carolina State Museum the book would not have been published. Davis persuaded the Department of Agriculture to sponsor the book through the Museum, and then could not get the State to appropriate $6,000 to publish it—it would not sell, they told him (orders to date total more than $5,000). Davis then persuaded the North Carolina Bird Club to get advance orders for the book, hoping that one thousand such orders might soften the hearts and loosen the purse strings of the powers-that-be. Finally Davis worked out an agreement with R. D. Bynum, of Raleigh, that he would print the book without the State putting a cent into the work; Bynum to be paid out of the proceeds of the sale of the book with the two thousand advance orders as an indicator that the book would sell.

Mrs. Roxie Collie Simpson of the Museum went over the whole manuscript making it uniform in spelling and treatment and accurate in statement to the last detail, and later rechecking the proof for final corrections.

Roger Tory Peterson of the National Audubon Association graciously allowed several plates to be used from his *A Field Guide To The Birds,* and in addition contributed many of the drawings which are unequaled in any bird book.

Alexander Wetmore of the United States National Museum directed a collecting expedition throughout the State in 1939 and allowed the use of his material even before its publication in 1941.

Thomas D. Burleigh, while stationed at Asheville with the Fish and Wildlife Service, did a thorough piece of work on the birds of Asheville

and Mt. Mitchell regions, and also did extensive work at Nags Head. Although some of his work has not yet been printed, it was made available to the authors.

Then there are hundreds of others who have contributed data to the book: Alexander Wilson, known as "the father of American ornithology," William Brewster, Arthur T. Wayne, Elliott Coues, Louis B. Bishop, Harry C. Oberholser, and a host of others who rank high in ornithology. And there are also those who did not know so much but did their part, as G. M. Garren, who picked up a dead bird on the streets of Raleigh and later learned he had furnished our only record of the Willow Thrush.

JOHN GREY.

Field Trips For 1942-43

C. H. BOSTIAN, Raleigh

With travel becoming increasingly difficult, it would be unwise to plan any more State-wide field trips for the duration. Meanwhile members of the Club will have to do their birding in smaller groups and keep within a short distance of their homes. Many will make the happy discovery that a great wealth of bird life exists in their own gardens or near-by meadows and woodlands.

Local trips need not be curtailed because of the times. Local clubs and smaller groups can plan trips to areas within walking distances or readily accessible by bus lines at a time of day and week when such facilities are not being over-taxed.

During the fall it is usually more difficult to arouse interest in field trips than at any other time of year. The fear of chiggers, poison ivy, and other terrors of the woods keeps many at home. Autumn is also the season when identification is most difficult, with the song period curtailed, leaves still on the trees, and with many birds in various stages of juvenile plumage.

At the same time, a full knowledge of our birds requires that we have a record of their presence, movements, and habits over a twelve months' period. During the next several months, migrants will be passing through, summer residents will be leaving, and winter residents arriving. If an individual or group could make a trip each week during this season, keep good records, and then send a summary to Dr. C. S. Brimley, Raleigh, the information contributed will add greatly to a better understanding of our birds. Records kept should include the date, approximate number of each kind of bird seen, and a brief statement made of where the birds were seen and what they were doing.

Local clubs might make a list of the hundred or so birds most likely to be seen in the area, and place this list on a large piece of cardboard, with 52 columns ruled off beside the list. At each meeting of the club, members could report the birds having been seen during the interval. At the end of a year an accurate story of the presence of birds in the locality would be told. Such a list should leave some space at the bottom for adding the names of unusual birds which might turn up in the locality during the year.

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph Hyde Pratt

1870-1942

Joseph Hyde Pratt possessed an individuality rather difficult to classify, his life-work being so widely distributed over a variety of lines relating to public betterment. The State of North Carolina has been helped over many a rough spot by the fact that nearly all of the working part of his life has been spent within our borders.

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, on February 3, 1870, he graduated from the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, where he was later an instructor in mineralogy for about two years, coming to the University of North Carolina as lecturer on mineralogy in 1897. With this he combined the office of State Mineralogist up to 1906, following that with the occupancy of the position of State Geologist from 1906 to 1924.

He was a pioneer in the State's activities in the drainage of waste areas, in the arousing of the public on the necessity for a systematic plan for the betterment of our highway system, on the supervision of our commercial fisheries, on advocating plans for the conservation of our forests and in many other lines of effort relating to natural resources conservation in general.

As a prominent member of the State's Literary and Historical Society, one may see that his interests were not confined to economic problems.

During World War I, Colonel Pratt commanded a regiment of Engineers of the 30th Division of the A. E. F., serving at the front in the Ypres section, in Flanders and Belgium, and in the Somme offensive. He was the recipient of a Distinguished Service Medal.

Badly gassed while on active service, his activities were very much restricted during the years immediately following the war, but, to a man like Pratt, this was just something to be overcome, or casually dismissed as inconsequential. He was active to the end.

Along with his general support of all measures relating to conservation he, as State Geologist, was instrumental in bringing out the original "Birds of North Carolina" in 1919, which was issued as Volume IV of the Reports of the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey.

Of strikingly genial individuality, his visits were always welcome incidents in the lives of his hosts of friends and acquaintances.

From the Jamestown Exposition in 1907, the writer was at times quite intimately acquainted with Colonel Pratt and, no matter what suffering he might be undergoing from his afflictions contracted during his war-time activities, he could mention them with a grin on his face without any indication of self-pity.

North Carolina has lost one of its most valuable citizens in his passing.

H. H. Brimley.

CONSTITUTION of
North Carolina Bird Club

ARTICLE I. Name and Objects.

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the North Carolina Bird Club.

Sec. 2. The purpose of this Club shall be the study and protection of birds, and the education of our people as to the value of birds.

Sec. 3. All current data which in the opinion of the Editor or Executive Committee is worthy of permanent record shall be published whenever practicable in a publication of the Club, which shall be known as The Chat.

Sec. 4. The Club will also promote the establishment of local subsidiary groups in the several sections of the State.

Sec. 5. The Club may also co-operate with State and Federal Authorities in bringing about better enforcement of all existing laws, both State and Federal, which protect bird life.

ARTICLE II. Membership.

Section 1. Any person who is interested in the study of birds may be elected to membership by the Club or the Executive Committee upon endorsement by two members.

Sec. 2. There shall be four classes of members: Ordinary members, paying one dollar a year; Sustaining members, paying five dollars a year; Contributing members, paying twenty-five dollars a year; and Life members, paying a lump sum of one hundred dollars.

Sec. 3. All dues for the ensuing year shall be payable January first. Members in arrears shall be dropped from the mailing list of The Chat at the end of six months, and shall be dropped from the roll at the end of the year, provided such member has been sent two notices of delinquency at intervals of not less than two months.

ARTICLE III. Officers.

Section 1. The officers of the Club shall be President, three Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor of The Chat. The duties of each shall be those usually pertaining thereto. These officers (together with two elected from the Club at large) shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. Nominations for officers shall be made by a Nominating Committee appointed by the President at the opening of the Annual Meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

Sec. 3. Vacancies in the staff of officers shall be filled by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV. Meetings.

Section 1. An Annual Meeting shall be held each spring at a time and place to be selected by the Executive Committee. Other meetings may be called by the Executive Committee (but only such business shall be transacted at a called meeting as is stated in the call for it). All members shall be notified at least thirty days in advance of each regular or called meeting, and the members present at such meetings shall constitute a quorum thereof.

ARTICLE V. Accounts.

Section 1. A Committee of two members shall be appointed by the President at the beginning of each annual meeting whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the Treasurer.

ARTICLE VI. Amendments.

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting, or special meeting called for that purpose, by a two-thirds majority of members present, provided the amendment has been submitted to the Executive Committee, and copies sent to all members one month prior to the annual meeting (or special meeting called for that purpose) at which it is to be voted upon.

ARTICLE VII. By-Laws.

By-Laws may be adopted or repealed at any annual or special meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

BY-LAWS

1. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall be represented at any meeting thereof, either in person or by proxy.

2. As the different classes of membership are dependent merely on the dues paid, any member may shift from one class to another by increasing or decreasing his or her dues.

Field Notes and News

STATESVILLE: Prairie Horned Larks nested on a third farm in Iredell County this year, that of W. B. Crawford. In previous years they have been noted on the farms of J. C. Crawford, also near Statesville, and R. W. Johnson, near Union Grove.

Cerulean Warblers were noted April 23 and May 7, a pair on each date, and a male on May 15.

Grace Anderson.

RALEIGH: On my ¾-acre lot, one pair each of the following birds nested this season: Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, English Sparrow, and Cardinal. Total, 10 species.

C. S. Brimley.

REYNOLDA BIRD SANCTUARY, WINSTON-SALEM: Nesting census of May 23, 1942, on about 100 acres, including: village, golf course, and lake. Bobwhite, 2; Mourning Dove, 1 on nest in white pine; Hummingbird, 1; Wood Pewee, 1; Purple Martin, 2; Crow, 7; Carolina Chickadee, 2; House Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 5; Catbird, 17; Brown Thrasher, 13, including 3 young; Robin, 13 and 3 nests; Wood Thrush, 4 and 1 nest; Starling, 10; Vireo (sp.?), 6; Yellow Warbler, 1; Ovenbird, 1; English Sparrow, 2; Meadow Lark, 12; Summer Tanager, 1; Cardinal, 10; Indigo Bunting, 1; Towhee, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 15; Song Sparrow, 4. Total species, 25; total individuals, 138.

Wm. H. Chance and Henry Magie.

Life Histories of North American Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows, and Their Allies, by Arthur Cleveland Bent. U. S. National Museum Bulletin 179. 555 pp. $1.00. Order from: Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

This latest addition to the Bent *Life Histories* has just appeared and will soon be out of print like the others, so get your copy now. It gives detailed information about 78 forms of bird life, including general habits and plumage changes, nesting, eggs, young, and general distribution, with 70 plates made from photographs of the birds. Nowhere else do we have such complete and authoritative information about these birds.

Local Clubs and Their Officers

Arden, Rosscraggon Wood, Inc.: P—Major V. M. Shell, Arden; V-P—Mrs. H. B. Swope, Skyland; S-T—H. B. Swope, Skyland.

Boone Nature Club: P—Miss Nancy Ellison; V-P—Hall Smith; S-T—Mrs. W. Micajah Burwell.

Chapel Hill Bird Club: No organization, but see Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Jensen; Philips Russell; Fremont Shepherd; and Tom Odum.

Charlotte, Mecklenburg Audubon Club: P—Mrs. George C. Potter; V-P—Osmond L. Barringer; S—Mrs. Monroe T. Gilmour; T—Miss Margaret Flowe, Derita.

Durham, Duke-Durham Bird Club: P—Miss Bertha Hopkins; S-T—Mrs. M. W. Johnson.

Greensboro, Piedmont Bird Club: P—Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall; V-P—Mrs. A. P. Noell; S—Mrs. Charles M. Swart; T—Dr. Anna Gove.

Henderson Bird Club: P—Miss Garnette Myers; V-P—J. W. Partin, Jr.; S-T—Miss Lillian Mossenburg.

Hickory Bird Club: P—Rev. Harry D. Althouse; V-P—J. Weston Clinard; S-T—Mrs. Geo. E. Bisanar.

Lenoir Audubon Club: P—Mrs. C. S. Warren; V-P—R. T. Greer; S-T—Miss Helen Myers.

Raleigh Bird Club: P—Willis G. Briggs; V-P—Miss Louise Busbee; S-T—Mrs. Roxie Collie Simpson.

Salisbury Bird Club.

Southern Pines Bird Club: P—Mary Keller Wintyen; V-P & S—Miss Louise Haynes; T & Rec. Sec.—Miss Norma Shiring.

Statesville Audubon Club.

Washington, Bughouse Laboratory, Washington Field Museum.

Please Let Us Know:

All libraries, both city and school, which have been given a copy of the new Bird Book. We would like to have the full name of the person donating the copy and also the full name of the library, to be published in THE CHAT.

The Birds of North Carolina

by T. Gilbert Pearson, C. S. Brimley, and H. H. Brimley, can be secured from the North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh, N. C., for $3.50.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

VOL. VI NOVEMBER, 1942 No. 5

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB
At State College Station
Raleigh, N. C.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

JOHN GREY, JR., *Editor* THOMAS L. QUAY, *Associate Editor*

State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.

"North Carolina was the first of the Southern States to take an active stand in the matter of preserving its wild bird and animal resources."

Entered as second-class matter April 8, 1941 at the post office Raleigh, North Carolina, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Price of the bulletin, fifty cents per annum. Fifty cents of the annual membership dues is paid as a year's subscription to THE CHAT.

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Headquarters in the North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh.

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Members, who pay dues of $1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of $5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of $25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of $100.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer: Ralph Brimley, 1403 Madison Avenue, Greensboro.

The President's Message

It would seem to be in order for an incoming president to submit to his fellow-members his thanks for the honor conferred on him, something in the line of general encouragement and, perhaps, a few words relating to this and that.

The resignation of President Grace Anderson was quite a blow to the club. Miss Anderson's enthusiasm in the study of birds, and in their conservation, was—and is—contagious, and I trust that some time in the future her energetic personality may again be given a wider scope in the work of the club, in an official capacity.

One of the privileges of being a more or less civilized human being is that allowing the members of a group to criticize its officers. This is as it should be, within reason. But it is sometimes well to pause a moment and ask ourselves if we could do better under similar circumstances, before making the criticism too drastic. One might also remember that even officials are more than likely to act as normal human beings if afforded a fair opportunity.

There is nothing sacred in an official position, though there is always a high compliment conveyed in the election to such position, as the writer thoroughly realizes and gratefully appreciates in this particular instance. So far, however, he has found no necessity for buying a new hat—of larger size than usual!

Suggestions from members are always in order. Without new ideas from the membership at large there is danger of any organization dying from dry-rot. Some may not prove practicable, but all will be given careful consideration.

The suggestion, made at the October meeting of the club, to the effect that every member be requested to secure at least one new member is hereby cordially endorsed.

Also each local club should pick out some particular project which is close at hand, such as field trips, the developing of youthful bird students, photography of birds, feeding stations, or some special phase of bird study.

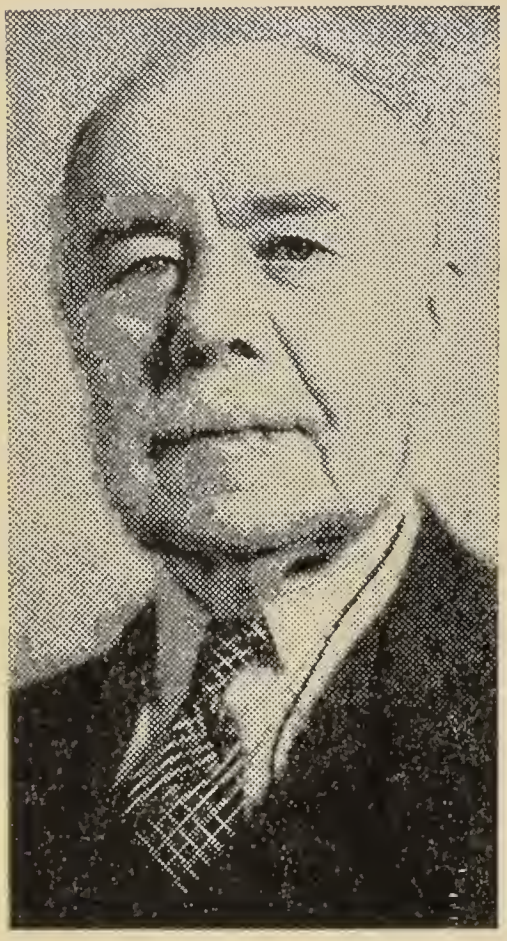
Our club has a fine, high-class membership, an excellent official magazine, and it is up to us, both individually and collectively, to make the North Carolina Bird Club one of the outstanding organizations of its kind in the country.

I feel that this can be done. Let's do it!

H. H. Brimley, Raleigh.

Fall Meeting of The N. C. Bird Club

Roxie Collie Simpson, *Secretary*, Raleigh



H. H. Brimley

On October 30, 1942, members of the North Carolina Bird Club met in Raleigh for their fall meeting. Registration was in the front hall of the North Carolina State Museum, and the afternoon session was held in the Board Room of the Agricultural Building.

Miss Clara Hearne, vice-president, presided. A. D. Shaftesbury presented the name of H. H. Brimley as having been approved by the Executive Committee for president to fill out the term of Miss Grace Anderson, who resigned since the death of her mother. He also stated that the committee recommended that the present officers continue until the next meeting, so that in case difficulties in travel or any factor should make it impossible to hold the spring meeting, the club would go under the present leadership. The club voted in favor of both of these recommendations.

Telegrams from Henry Magie, W. H. Chance, and Miss Grace Anderson were read.

It was announced that C. S. Brimley had given reprints of papers on birds to the Club Library.

Interesting and inspiring, as well as entertaining papers were read—"Odds and Ends About Birds" by H. H. Brimley; "The Eggs of Birds" by C. S. Brimley; and "How the List of Birds of Chapel Hill Came to Be Published" by Coit Coker.

Projects for local clubs were discussed—William Craven talked on Bird Banding; Roxie Collie Simpson, Perrin Gower, Jr., Ernest Mitchell, Jr., and Robert Wolff took up Field Trips as a worth-while project for each club. It was brought out that there has been, and still is, a definite need for supervised bird study hikes for the Boy Scouts to aid them in their work for Bird Study Merit Badges. If each local club would consider training the Scouts in its town in bird study as its own responsibility, it would find a very responsive and appreciative group among the Scouts.

Mrs. O. F. Jensen wanted to inform club members where material on birds, such as motion pictures, could be found and give them the opportunity

to see what could be obtained. The Visual Aid Extension Service at the University of North Carolina rents 16 mm. films for a fee of $1.00 to $1.50. Four films were shown, Birds and Their Young (this was lent by the Charlotte Public Library), Thrushes and Their Relatives, Birds of Prey and Our Friendly Birds.

Sixty-one attended the banquet which was held at the Hotel Carolina with Willis G. Briggs, president of the Raleigh Club, as toastmaster. W. Kerr Scott, Commissioner of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, gave the address of welcome.

Immediately following the banquet, James R. Sydnor of the Union Theological Seminary at Richmond, Virginia, talked on "Bird Songs." As the records of bird songs were played, kodachrome slides were used to portray the birds. Mr. Sydnor then gave a short discussion on the best methods to study bird songs, a bird song may have tone, volume, pitch, quality, and phonetics. He recommended A. A. Saunders' *Field Guide to Bird Songs* to everyone interested in bird study from this angle.

At eight o'clock Saturday morning fifty-eight gathered in D. L. Wray's garden for breakfast with the Raleigh Bird Club as host. After breakfast about fifty members went on the field trip where they saw Greater Yellowlegs, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Pine Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Purple Grackle, Cardinal, Towhee, Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Junco, Chipping Sparrow, and Field Sparrow.

At 10:30 the group went to the Ambassador Theatre to see a film on hobbies presented through the courtesy of W. G. Enloe, as arranged by William Craven. One of the hobbies shown in the film was bird banding at the Ardmore Station in Pennsylvania.

Since there was not much time left for touring the museums during Friday afternoon, some of the members visited the State Museum to see the bird exhibits and the skin collection; others visited the Art Museum and the State Library where Miss Carrie Broughton had the Audubon paintings in the Elephant Folio on exhibit.

Thus ended another enjoyable and inspiring meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club.

The report of Ralph Brimley, Treasurer, arrived after the meeting, stating that all bills are paid, and is as follows:

Balance carried forward May 8, 1942	$ 198.31	
Dues collected to November 10, 1942	222.50	
		$ 420.81
Expended May 8 to November 10		267.98
Balance on hand		$ 152.83

The Master's Touch

Mary Keller Wintyen, Southern Pines

How true the saying, "God gave us memory so that we might have roses in December." So, when the December of life finds me plucking roses from God's great hot-house of memory, I think I shall never look on yellow roses but what they shall turn for me into little yellow balls of life, darting here, there, and everywhere,—Prothonotary Warblers.

Years from now when earth reclaims her borrowed clay, eyes have become dimmed, and the rose is but a blur, this migratory soul shall linger before an unframed portrait, and see with spiritual eyes the following:

Spring this day touched the heartstrings of two creatures attuned to the same desire, and bore them swiftly along a great highway, dotted here and there with wonders. This machine-traveled, foot-trodden way stretched on and on, but ended for us at a little stone bridge. And what a bridge! Like Aladdin's lamp it seemed to produce magic.

The sunlight filtering through the green of the trees and grasses bordering the stream gave the picture its color values. The dark mystic water became a polished mirror in which the universe was reflected: the blue of the sky, greens of the trees, and countless other delicate tints, some soft, others blending into more melancholy shades,—all in perfect rhythm. The green lily pads, with their yellow heads were gaily nodding in the breeze. The spell was upon us,—closer were our spirits drawn into the enchanted scene. Just a wee bit of life and our pattern would be finished, our picture live.

Suddenly, our eyes caught a flash of yellow, another, and yet another. Gorgeous creatures, head and underparts a yellowish orange, eyes and bill black, tail and wings a greenish gray mixed with white. Here they were weaving in and out among the trees. These creatures, bits of little yellow balls thrown among the green gave the soul-bewitching atmosphere a hallowed bliss. They decided to take a peek at themselves and would land on an old tree snag about six inches from the water and a little to one side of the picture. Their brilliant bodies reflecting in the mirror was all the Great Artist needed to complete his masterpiece. And I thought as I joined the rest of the many thousands who cross this bridge, how few are fed with food as rich as this.

But this I do know. That—
In some twilight, many, many years from this day,
When the stone bridge has crumbled and slowly been carried away,
When the clear glossy stream, Nature's mirror, is dulled,
And hushed are the babblings with which the wood-folk are lulled,
On an old crooked bough, two yellow birds shall descend,—
One, the soul of an artist—the other, her friend.

The Reynolda Bird Sanctuary

Henry Magie, Winston-Salem

"The Reynolda Bird Sanctuary is beautiful and has a promising future," said Miss Claudia Hunter after her recent visit to this 1,100 acres adjoining Winston-Salem on the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Babcock (Mary Reynolds).

This sanctuary covers typical rolling Piedmont land with several streams impounded to form Lake Katherine of 15 acres, forests of hardwoods and pine, with abundant dogwood, hundreds of farmed acres, two private golf courses, pastures, the "bungalo," the village with twelve homes, a church, greenhouses, formal gardens, orchard, and an extensive nursery with many varieties of ornamentals furnishing winterberry, for bird food.

Reynolda Sanctuary is operated by the owners under the Five Year Plan, co-operating with the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development and sponsored by the Winston-Salem Bird Club. James Darsie, State Biologist, carefully examined these 1,100 acres in the spring of 1941 and found suitable sanctuary conditions, shelter, food, fencing, patrol with no foxes, a few opossums and all cats, pet and stray, zealously excluded.

Darsie noted the excellent protection for migrating water fowl on Lake Katherine, which is surrounded by tall forest trees; he also found abundant supply of winter bird food in the several acres of shrubs in the nursery, and as an adjunct he recommended the planting of scientifically selected grains, Kaffir corn, proso, sunflower, rape, bene, barnyard millet, Tennessee millet, and lespedeza in strips along the edge of the woods; also beside the thickets adjoining the streams. This planting being, successful in 1941, has been followed this year.

A feature of note in the two and one-half miles of privet hedge, twenty-four years old, six to nine feet high, closely cropped forming an ideal nesting place, well guarded from storms and all animal marauders. We found in this hedge dozens of occupied nests.

The Reynolda Sanctuary bird census started on December 27, 1941, with forty-three species, no water fowl; May 24, 1942, our partial count showed only twenty-five species, as we spent most of our visit studying the nesting habits, inspecting bird boxes, watching Meadowlarks, searching for the Ovenbird. William H. Chance, the recognized local bird authority, says, "Every bird known in this section can be found in Reynolda Sanctuary."

The Reynolda Bird Sanctuary cordially invites all members of the North Carolina Bird Club to visit and the owners ask that all visitors kindly enter the main gateway opposite the church on Highway No. 421, and report to the near-by office of the Estate Manager, Mr. Stewart Warnken, who will give instructions and routing.

The Surprise Visit of A Hummingbird

Edna T. Robertson, Boone

During the months of last Summer, I enjoyed the daily coming of the Hummingbird, to draw the nectar from the profusion of variegated flowers growing beneath the den windows. Near these windows I spent many hours at my desk. I watched each day for my little visitor, and he did not fail to arrive. Evidently, my presence, clearly seen through the glass, did not disturb, although I did not sit quietly, and often another person was with me.

One bright morning, I was seated on the grassy bank of the tiny brook bordering my lawn. A basket of red apples was placed on a stool, and covered with a white cloth, on which were red figures. While I sat quietly there, peeling an apple, numerous yellow-jackets buzzed around me, and I became lost in thought. I was aroused from my reverie by a Hummingbird humming at the basket of apples. He then flitted to the red figures on the stool. I sat perfectly still. He then came and hummed at the red dots on my apron! Delightful thrills were running through me, and I felt breathless when he lighted against my knee, and folded his wings, and rested with closed eyes. I studied him closely. A small, dainty little creature. Gold dots decorated his top-coat. The folded wings seemed grayish. The lids of the eyes seemed light and thin. I thought he was sick, he rested so still. I remained motionless, studying him closely as he leaned snugly against my knee. Suddenly and unexpected, a yellow-jacket lighted on my throat, which caused a sudden movement on my part. This aroused the little bird, but he did not seem startled. He slowly lifted his body and opened his wings, circling around the apple basket a moment, he flew up the stream, keeping close to the water, until he was out of sight. This was one of the most beautiful compliments ever paid to me. Once when seated on a garden seat on the lawn of my girlhood home, a little sparrow came and lit on the back of the seat within three inches of my shoulder, remaining there for a few moments and flew to the limb of the tree above my head.

I Like Blue Jays !

H. H. Brimley, Raleigh

I know that I am sticking out my neck in making the statement that I like to have Blue Jays around my home.

Roger Tory Peterson's beautiful colored pictures of this bird, together with some notes not unfavorable to its habits, that appeared in the June first issue of *Life* magazine, brought forth several rather severe criticisms of the nice things the article had said about the species. One lady critic writing as follows: "Last Tuesday I was innocently standing in the yard when I received a severe whack on the back of my head. It was a Blue Jay that delivered the blow."

Now, wasn't that too bad, even for a ferocious Blue Jay? But I trust that the bird's victim is by this time canvalescing nicely and on the high road to a complete recovery. Most of the writers, however, confined their criticisms to the egg-eating and supposedly quarrelsome habit of the bird—which is the line usually followed in this connection—the critics losing sight of the fact that in all of its activities it is merely acting as a Blue Jay.

The species that nest fairly regularly on my lot and those adjacent thereto are Blue Jay, Catbird, Cardinal, Brown Thrasher, Robin and Wood Thrush, with Yellow-throated Vireo, Chipping Sparrow, Summer Tanager and Ruby-throated Hummingbird occurring at rare intervals. So far as I can determine, after occupying the same house for thirty-two years, the summer population of the six commonly observed species varies but little from year to year. Only one pair of jays seems to breed in the immediate vicinity, with often more than a single pair of the other five on hand nearly every year.

But, to get back to our Blue Jays! A most pleasing picture to the eye—at least to my eyes—and even more in evidence when the leaves are off the trees and bird life comparatively scarce. A family party of four or five Blue Jays, acting among the bare branches of the oaks, is a most welcome and attractive picture, and I would much rather they would eat a few eggs of other birds in the summer than fail in their most welcome presence in the winter.

On the terrace in front of my home is a very lovely little willow oak, some seven or eight years old, a volunteer tree. Others have come up around the lot, with no acorn-bearing trees of this species near enough in any direction to account for the presence of willow oak acorns unless brought there by the jays. To my mind, the presence of that beautiful little oak on the terrace make amends for many a sucked egg of Catbird, Robin, Wood Thrush, or Brown Thrasher.

There is no inferiority complex about the Blue Jay. It usually seems to know what it wants, and to go after it, which really might be regarded as a commendable characteristic. Self-assertive? Yes, decidedly so; and why not? It would seem rather monotonous if all our feathered friends were shy, shrinking creatures; a little mixture of pugnacity helps to leaven the whole.

When the great liner, the Queen Mary, was on her maiden trip across the Atlantic some of the newspaper correspondents aboard started criticizing certain details of the ship in comparison with corresponding features of the Italian "Rex," the French "Normandie," and the German "Bremen." A more broadminded member of the guild shut off the critics rather cleverly with the following statement: "True, the Queen Mary is not the Rex, nor is she the Bremen, nor the Normandie. She is Sandy's idea of a ship—and Sandy has been building ships for a *long, long* time."

So, the Blue Jay is one of nature's ideas of a bird, and nature has been developing birds even longer than is generally implied by "a long, long time."

Aids To Amateurs — Woodpeckers

C. S. Brimley, Raleigh

Woodpeckers are birds of medium size, with chisel-shaped bills. The tail feathers are stiffened and pointed, the tail being braced against the trunk or limb of a tree as a support when the bird is climbing or resting; consequently, a Woodpecker can easily go up, but not down a tree.

I. Those With a Good Deal of Black Above and No Spotting

Pileated Woodpecker: Nearly as large as a Crow, black above and below; with a red crest, a white stripe down each side of the neck, and considerable white on the underside of the wings. It may be found throughout the State wherever any good-sized stand of heavy timber occurs.

Red-headed Woodpecker: About the size of a Robin, head and neck red, the upperparts mainly black; with the rump, secondaries, outer tail feathers, and most of the underparts white. Immature birds have the head dusky, very partial to acorns.

II. Those With the Back Cross-barred With Black

Flicker: The second largest Woodpecker is about the size of a Blue Jay. Locally called Yellowhammer. The large size, brown color and white rump are its distinguishing characters.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: About the size of the Red-headed, the back barred with black and white, the head wholly red on top in male, only the nape is red in female; sides of head and underparts ashy white; no black on head; mostly found in damp lowgrounds. Known by the cross-banded back and the absence of black on the head.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker: One of the smaller species, with head mainly black but with a large white patch on sides; undersides white heavily spotted with black along sides. Found mostly in the region of the State occupied by the long-leaf pines, being our only species not State-wide in distribution. Known by the white patch on side of head, the black spotted sides and cross banded back.

III. Those With the Back Striped Lengthwise

Hairy Woodpecker: Is a little smaller than a Robin with a red band across the back of the head in the male; and a broad white stripe down the back.

Downy Woodpecker: Is about the size of an English Sparrow, being the smallest of our species; it is like the Hairy except in size.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Is present only in winter in the greater part of the State, but does breed on the higher mountains. About the size of a Hairy. It is black above varied with white, top of head usually red in both sexes. A good field mark is a longitudinal white stripe down each wing, easily seen when the bird is climbing a tree.

Questions and Answers

PHILLIPS RUSSELL, FREMONT SHEPHERD, and THOMAS ODUM, Chapel Hill

To what extent are boxes used by birds during the winter season?

We are too prone to think of putting up boxes for use only during the nesting season. We have often noted several species that have used boxes for shelter roosts in the winter, for example, the Owls, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Chickadees, Titmice, and Wrens. Has anyone observed others? This is a good argument for not waiting till spring to put out boxes. One may have a tenant at dusk each evening during the winter.

What are some of the most effective foods to put on a feeding tray?

One food that seems to be more of a universal appetizer for more species than any other is made up from flour, lard, and peanut butter—the lard and peanut butter being put in generously. Some other effective foods are chopped raw peanuts, crumbled doughnuts and cornsticks, wild bird seed, baby chick feed, raisins, chopped cheese rinds, sunflower seed, suet, and for Hummingbirds only—vials of colored sugar syrup.

What group of birds will give the observer the greatest returns for his limited time this winter?

Ordinarily ducks are the most interesting because of their rarity, irregularity, large size, and concentration on areas of water. However, duck areas are not easily accessible to many observers, especially this year because of the war. The sparrow family, on the other hand, is generally accessible. An observer may contribute much to his knowledge of song, identification, and occurrence, and in addition contribute to what little is known about the occurrence and food of some. Take a few hours' walking in fairly open agricultural regions along some creek—that's where the Winter Sparrows are thick.

What is the most valuable bird?

Of course the chicken. Other than the chicken the Peruvian Cormorant of Guanay is the most valuable. It occurs in countless millions for 2,500 miles on the west coast of South America. Their value lies in the thousands of tons of fertilizer which they deposit yearly.

What is the origin of the domestic cat? Where was it a natural predator?

Most of our domestic cats are believed to be crosses between the now almost extinct European wild cat and the Egyptian cat. Some other species of wild cats have contributed to some strains of our domestic cat.

A Librarian Checks The Readers of Bird Books

Jessie McMillan Stroup, Winston-Salem

Here at the Winston-Salem Public Library our shelf of Bird Books is not nearly so long as we wish it—only some 40 volumes. But it is a proud shelf, headed by Macmillan's excellent reproduction of Audubon's *The Birds of America.* Evidently it gives information and inspiration to bird lovers, for we find these books circulate actively.

Who reads them? At first glance, an oddly assorted group of patrons—eager little cub Scouts barely able to read such grown-up books, and proudly carrying away Chapman's *What Bird Is That?* to retired scholars who, in common, find in bird study an increasingly satisfactory recreation. There is the grave young collegian, Eagle Scout of yesterday, who readily identifies 124 common birds and confines his study to North Carolina birds, and the successful broker who devotes his leisure to bird study as a hobby and spreads his interest over a world-wide field as he follows bird migrations from the North Pole to Brazil.

There are the owners of lovely estate gardens who study Margaret McKenney's *Birds in the Garden,* hoping to attract the added beauty of color and song to their bits of Paradise. And little cottage dwellers who take Job or Pearson, *How to Study Birds,* hoping to identify and enjoy their bird neighbors.

Personal observation always humanizes a book, so Virginia Holton's *The Beeps* appeals to many whose own experiences bubble over in stories told across our desk as books are stamped.

Yes—many folk—young and old, men and women, for many reasons read books about birds so that a newly acquired treasure like the last volume of *National Geographic Bird Book* stays out as consistently as a popular novel. But all these bird lovers are gentle folk knit together in the brotherhood of those to whom "Nature, the kind old nurse, has whispered secrets of the universe."

Books About Birds At The Library

(*Most frequently used.)

**To Africa with the Migratory Birds*, Berg; **Birds Worth Knowing*, Blanchan; **Our Winter Birds*, Chapman; *The Travels of Birds*, Chapman; *Permanent Bird Houses*, Califf; *Great Wings and Small; Bird Stories of Our Day*, Clarke; **Birds of Field, Forest and Park*, Gilmore; **Birds of the South*, Green; *The Charm of Birds*, Grey of Fallodon; *The Beeps*, Holton; *Wild Life Conservation in Theory and Practice*, Hornaday; **How to Study Birds*, Job; *How to Make Friends With Birds*, Ladd; **Birds in the Garden and How to Attract Them*, McKenny; **Field Book of Wild Birds and Their Music*, Mathews; **Book of Birds* (2 volumes), National Geographic Society; *Bird Guide: Land Birds East of the Rockies*, Reed; **Bird Portraits*, Roberts; **The Bird Book*, Shoffner; *Homes for Birds*, U. S. Agriculture Department, Biologi-

cal Survey Bureau; *Food of Some Well-Known Birds of Forest, Farm, and Garden* (Farmers' Bul. 506), U. S. Agriculture, Biological Survey Bureau; *The Island of Penguins*, Kearton.

Juvenile Department

**American Bird Biographies*, Allen; *Golden Plover and Other Birds*, Allen; *Bird Neighbors*, Blanchan; **Bird Book for Children*, Burgess; **Life Story of Birds*, Daglish; **American Songbirds*, Edey; *American Water Birds*, Edey; *First Book of Birds*, Miller; **Real Boys and Girls Go Birding*, Van Coevering; **What Bird Is That?* Chapman.

Birds of North Carolina, Pearson & Brimley.

Spying On Sister Pewee, II

W. G. Templeton, Statesville

In the September issue of The Chat (p. 54) I told of the beginning of the Pewee nest on June 23, 1942. Mrs. Pewee laid her first egg on the eleventh day, after starting her nest, then she rested for five days, and then she laid one more egg on the ninth of July, sixteen days after beginning her nest. On Sunday, the twelfth, I found her off the nest just as a big shower was coming up. As it started to rain very hard, she came from nowhere and spreading out her wings she covered the entire nest, thus protecting it from the downpour. I find her off the nest more often than on, and whether or not she has started to set I cannot say, even though it has been fifteen days since she laid her first egg. It is now Sunday, July 19th, 2:00 p.m. I will make further report at 5:00 p.m. today after visiting Mrs. Pewee's abode, for the twenty-sixth consecutive day.

Sunday, July 19th, 5:00 p.m., after raising my reflecting mirror over the nest, I found one egg hatched.

July 20th, 4:00 p.m., second egg hatched, or partly so.

July 21st, one bird much larger than the other.

From this date on, until August 3rd, I watched the Pewee's being well fed, and about 11:00 a.m. I raised my mirror to see if both birds were in the nest and one of them flew out of nest to a limb two feet away. The old birds came back and fed both.

August 4th, I found both birds much higher in the tree on a dead limb being fed by old birds. This kept up until August 11th when I lost sight of the young birds.

During the summer I found seven Wood Pewee nests and all had only two eggs and far up on the mountain I found two more families of them with only two babies. Can it be that in this altitude at Boone that two eggs for Mrs. Pewee is the prevailing number instead of three or four as is their custom farther east and in the lowlands.

Literary Allusions To North Carolina Birds

Eddie W. Wilson, Cary

Amadas and Barlowe, in their report of discovery made to Sir Walter Raleigh, said that "having discharged our harquebus-shot, a flock of cranes (the most part white) arose under us, with such a cry, redoubled by many echoes, as if an army of men had shouted altogether." This record was the beginning of numerous and delightful references to North Carolina birds in literature.

According to the early historian John Lawson, there were to be found in the colony "good plenty of fowles, as curleus, gulls, gannets, and pillicans, besides duck and mallard, geese, swans, teal, widgeon, &c." A few years later, John Brickell, naturalist, physician, historian, wrote a *Natural History of North Carolina.* His observations regarding birds are most interesting; as, "Red-birds . . . when they are shut up in Cages for some years, they become milk-white"; and "Cat-birds are pretty good eating, but what Physical Virtues they may be endued with are unknown." His description of hummingbirds' nests is a striking example of the sentence-structure of his day: "Humming-birds nests are a great Curiosity and may properly be said to be one of the greatest pieces of Workmanship the whole species of winged Animals can shew, for it commonly hangs on a single Bryer most artificially Woven like a round Ball, with a small Hole to go in and out, where it lays and Hatches its Eggs, which are very white, of an Oval figure, and for the most part but two in Number which are no bigger than a Small Pea."

Birds figured prominently in the myths of the early North Carolina Indians, and we are told that in the early days these feathered creatures "talked and acted much like people."

While in Carolina, William Bartram studied the migration of birds. An especial favorite of his was the catbird, being "little inferior to the philomela or mock-bird; and in some remarkable instances, perhaps, exceeds them both, in particular as a buffoon or mimick."

North Carolina poets have ever seen and felt the beauty of the birds about them.

Theophilus Hunter Hill sang of "the gauzy wings of a humming-bird." John Henry Boner by his "light 'ood fire" heard "owls hoot from the hollow tree." The first thing that John Charles McNeill remembered "of this world—or of any other world, for that matter—" was "a peep at four blue eggs in a hollow tree" and he never forgot that day "which seems now a thousand years gone, when I gazed with wonder at those eggs." In the fall, the bobwhites called "across the corn to one another." In his little poem entitled "Spring," he "axed a rooster mockin' bird, 'Why does you sing all day en' night?' " A tomtit's April cry in a city brought to the homesick poet "news" of the "oriole in his gold and sable dressed."

Olive Tilford Dargan bears witness to the charm of North Carolina birds both in her poetry and prose. In *The Cycle's Rim* she describes

> "that little bird
> Whose song is gaily pitched above man's ear
> Shall not less happy sing though none may hear."

In *Highland Annals,* her Unaka hills are "tipped with song," and one morning as she gathered sticks for her hearth-fire a cardinal sang his "most shamelessly seductive song" in thanks for her not disturbing his pile of brush.

Thomas Wolfe wrote of "trees singing with hidden birds" and "warm-throated plum-dropping bird-notes."

Paul Green in his *The Laughing Pioneer* says that the harp of a mocking-bird's soul "is as tuneful and as fresh as when the red man wandered here a thousand years ago."

They'll Do It Every Time!

The first Horned Larks of the season arrived October 17th at Fort Bragg, the date is more than a month earlier than former reports. F. H. Craighill had observed them by November 27th at Rocky Mount in past years.

They were reported by Pvt. Ben Coffey, of Memphis, Editor of *The Migrant,* bulletin of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

And what was Ben doing when the larks arrived?

He was standing at attention, unable to even glance aside, for he was being inspected by a four-star general. All he got was the call of the larks as they flew overhead.

Since then Ben has checked the area several times and finds a group of larks on the parade ground nearly every time.

"Was there ever a hobby more suited to these troublesome times—no rubber, no gas, etc., . . . and lastly, no maid, for we are finding them, too, gone with the war. But the birds stay with us, and tie us back to something very stable in life. How grateful we are for them. . . ."

—Mrs. Zora Jensen, Chapel Hill, in *Ebbanus,* bulletin of the Eastern Bird Banding Association.

IN MEMORIAM

Scott Cary Lyon, distinguished scientist, devoted teacher, passed away on July 23, 1942, after an illness of several months. For sixteen years a professor of biology at Davidson College, he had also served on the faculties of Tulane University, Alabama Presbyterian College, and Southwestern, receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Science from that latter institution in 1926. Dr. Lyon was a member of the United States Academy of Science and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the American Association of Economic Entomologists, and an elder in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.—*Davidson College Bulletin.*

Eugene DeForest Heald, of the faculty of Lenoir-Rhyne College, died in Lenoir, May 28, 1942. Born at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1875, educated at Emerson Institute, Washington, D. C., Johns Hopkins University, General Theological Seminary, New York, and Columbia University. For twenty-four years he was professor of Romance Languages at Lenoir-Rhyne and prepared monographs in Russian, Hungarian, Finnish, German, French, Spanish, and Italian. He was an outstanding leader in work with the Boy Scouts and in 1938 won the Silver Beaver award for twenty-five years' distinguished service in boys' work. Dr. Heald was a clergyman of the Episcopal Church and leader in many civic and community activities.

Boone Nature Club

The club meets regularly the second Tuesday night of each month and has a program with a speaker on some phase of bird life, and then allows ten minutes to various members to relate their experiences with birds. This summer we secured Alexander Sprunt, southern representative of the National Audubon Society, to give a lecture at the Appalachian College in which he showed two reels of pictures in kodachrome.

The club was the guest of the Blowing Rock Audubon Club for a picnic supper at the Arlington Cottage and we again had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Sprunt.

Our club has enjoyed several field trips with G. W. Templeton, of Statesville, as a guide. Many summer residents met with our club and we also had numerous guests who were tourists.

The club is working with the Boy Scouts through their scoutmaster, and several of them are junior members of the club.

Josie Hyatt Burwell, *Secretary.*

Try A City-Block Sanctuary

Henry Magie, Winston-Salem

If you are not able to make all of your city a bird sanctuary, why not make a beginning with the block in which you live. Most blocks contain about three and one-half acres, representing lawns, hedges, shrubbery in small clusters, and usually a good many trees. Already you have these advantages, and if you add man's willingness to befriend our birds, a sanctuary can be produced.

What next? Create a community spirit in regard to the birds among those living in the block. Choose a secretary who will keep some records of species there at present, those coming in migration, times of arrival, number of birds of various species. Distribute information covering nesting boxes, bird baths, feeding trays and stations. Note predatory enemies of birds, such as dogs, cats, and snakes, and do all you can to humanely control or eliminate them. Appoint all the boys and girls as a "Block Bird Club," assigning duties of visiting all feeding stations and reporting on conditions in the sanctuary. Scouts are trustworthy and many are studying bird life to earn a merit badge on bird study.

Interest these youngsters in putting out bird boxes, feeders, and baths. They will sell the idea to the grown-ups. Encourage the planting of ornamental shrubbery that will have winter berries for food. Someone might even become so interested they would get a banding permit and make an intensive study of the birds in the block.

This is written July 4th in a block sanctuary, and is interrupted to watch seven species of birds raiding the wild cherry tree which was planted by a bird seventeen years ago. Master of ceremonies is "Old Man" Robin, atop the tree, who keeps an eye on the Catbird and a female Cardinal. Then there is the House Wren scolding loudly at these intruders who are close to her nesting box. *The Book of Birds,* Vol. II, tells of 74 species of birds that feed on wild cherries, and it also suggests many food-bearing plants for our yards.

I submitted this article to T. Gilbert Pearson for criticism and suggestions, and he says: "Would citizens approve girls and boys going through their lawns as inspectors of birds?" Well, Doctor, it is being done successfully, even with boys combining all the good and bad tendencies. Boys' mischievous habits will conform to the habits of the sanctuary as they are made an integral part of befriending the living birds.

As To Members

NEW MEMBERS

J. J. Armstrong, 107 Central Avenue, Belmont.
Mrs. W. Micajah Burwell, Water St., Boone.
William A. China, 620 Roanoke Ave., Roanoke Rapids.
Alfred O. Gross, Bowden College, Brunswick, Maine.
Miss Katherine Hamilton, Tryon.
Mrs. M. B. Koonce, 2203 Byrd St., Charlotte.
R. F. Logan, 106 Carr St., Chapel Hill.
Mecklenburg Council B.S.A., 427 Piedmont Bldg., Charlotte.
Mrs. Stanley Rask, Rt. 6, Lenoir.
Phillips Russell, Chapel Hill.
Miss Bess Siceloff, 539 Parkway, High Point.
Miss Lena Sides, 1812 Main St., Columbia, S. C.
W. B. Stallings, Boone.
Mrs. W. D. Tuttle, Box 813, Lenoir.
Charlie Walker, 1711 Beverly Drive, Charlotte.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Major W. L. Allison, Statesville, N. C.
Dr. B. F. Royal, Morehead City, N. C.
H. A. Rankin, Jr., Fayetteville, N. C.
Edward T. Cone, Greensboro, N. C.
Dr. C. S. Brimley, Raleigh, N. C.
Mrs. Moses Cone, Blowing Rock, N. C.
Grace Anderson, Statesville, N. C.
Statesville Audubon Society.

Field Notes and News

BOONE: A Mockingbird was shot by some thoughtless youth and was picked up by a club member and put on exhibit in a store window. This bird is quite rare in this section and Professor Williams of the Appalachian College said he had not seen or heard a Mockingbird in this area for ten years until this bird, which was observed by members of the local club, who also heard it singing. Josie Hyatt Burwell, *Secretary.*

GEORGETOWN, S. C.: Regarding your note about swallow migration, I send you the following from my field notes of October 16, 1934, near Burns Fishing Lodge, fifteen miles south of Georgetown along the road through the old indigo swamp: "Saw thousands of Tree Swallows migrating on the road and telephone wires, just as we entered the swamp road beyond Browns. They covered the road and the telephone wires, not less than ten thousand. A site to be remembered always." Carey E. Gregory, Morganton.

ROSSCRAGGON WOOD, BUNCOMBE COUNTY: On October 22, 1942, I saw a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and four Golden-crowned Kinglets bathing in the little stream; a Hermit Thrush on the trail up the gorge; Bluebirds taking baths; Myrtle Warblers; Palm Warbler, but did not see whether it was Western or Yellow, both of which are rare; a lot of Juncos, which have just arrived; Towhees; Cardinals; Chickadees; and Titmice; also a Brown Thrasher and many White-throated Sparrows.

Dodette W. Grinnell.

Local Clubs and Their Officers

Arden, Rosscraggon Wood, Inc.: P—Major V. M. Shell, Arden; V-P—Mrs. H. B. Swope, Skyland; S-T—H. B. Swope, Skyland.

Blowing Rock, Blowing Rock Audubon Club.

Boone, Boone Nature Club: P—W. Hall Smith; V-P—J. A. W. Davis; S-T—Mrs. Josie Hyatt Burwell.

Chapel Hill Bird Club: No organization, but see Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Jensen; Phillips Russell; Fremont Shepherd; and Tom Odum.

Charlotte, Mecklenburg Audubon Club: P—Mrs. George C. Potter; V-P—Osmond L. Barringer; S—Mrs. Monroe T. Gilmour; T—Miss Margaret Flowe, Derita.

Concord, Rex Brasher Bird Club.

Durham, Duke-Durham Bird Club: P—Miss Bertha Hopkins; S-T—Mrs. M. W. Johnson.

Greensboro, Piedmont Bird Club: P—Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall; V-P—Mrs. A. P. Noell; S—Mrs. Charles M. Swart; T—Dr. Anna Gove.

Henderson Bird Club: P—Miss Garnette Myers; V-P—J. W. Partin, Jr.; S-T—Miss Lillian Mossenburg.

Hickory Bird Club: P—Rev. Harry D. Althouse; V-P—J. Weston Clinard; S-T—Mrs. Geo. E. Bisanar.

Lenoir Audubon Club: P—Mrs. C. S. Warren; V-P—R. T. Greer; S-T—Miss Helen Myers.

Raleigh Bird Club: P—Willis G. Briggs; V-P—Miss Louise Busbee; S-T—Mrs. Roxie Collie Simpson.

Salisbury Bird Club.

Southern Pines Bird Club: P—Mary Keller Wintyen; V-P & S—Miss Louise Haynes; T & Rec. Sec.—Miss Norma Shiring.

Statesville Audubon Club.

Washington, Bughouse Laboratory: P—Sally Bogart; S-T—Elizabeth Shelton; Director, Joe Biggs.

Please Send Us Your 1943 Officers

That Christmas Present

The Birds of North Carolina

by T. Gilbert Pearson, C. S. Brimley, and H. H. Brimley. Order from North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh, N. C. $3.50 Postpaid.

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Announcements

Members in the service will be carried by the Club for the duration without payment of dues and will receive THE CHAT if their addresses are kept correct, or they could secure copies later on.

The Rocky Mount Public Library has been given a copy of *Birds of North Carolina* by Mrs. Rosa W. Bullock in memory of the Reverend Francis H. Craighill.

Back copies of THE CHAT can be secured from the editor for ten cents a copy or fifty cents a volume. We have only four complete sets of Vols. I through VI for sale. We have only a limited supply of the following issues: Vol. I, No. 2, April, 1937; Vol. II, Nos. 9-10, September-October, 1938; Vol. III, Nos. 4-5, April-May, 1939; Vol. IV, No. 4, April, 1940, and Nos. 5-6, May-June, 1940.